

Hafa Adai!

Shipments from Asia drop due to virus fears. **PAGE 3**

NMC recovery efforts moving forward despite austerity. **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune



Volume XXX, Issue No. 39

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020

www.saipantribune.com

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CEMETERY EXPANSION

CNMI Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Stanley Iakopo, seventh from right and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, sixth from right, join other officials for the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration.

JUSTINE NAUTA

AS S. KOREA RAISES CORONAVIRUS THREAT LEVEL

'More uncertainties for CPA'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With South Korea recently raising its coronavirus threat level, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is now presented with more uncertainties as the East Asian country is the CNMI's biggest market for tourists, according to CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio yesterday.

'No exemptions to austerity'

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a second tranche of austerity measures set to go into effect on March 15, some government departments have asked to be exempted, to no avail.

"Every department has requested for exemption. At the



Atalig

moment there's no exemptions being honored," Finance Secretary David Atalig said.

Based on the directive, all law enforcement agencies

are the only exception in terms
See AUSTERITY on Page 4

At the CPA board's regular meeting at the Port of Saipan conference room, Tenorio said that raising the threat level allows the South Korean gov-

ernment to lock down cities in an effort to contain the outbreak, if needed.

He cited a recent article in *The New York Times* indicat-

ing that South Korea's number of confirmed new coronavirus cases has doubled.

As a protective measure, CPA continues to work with

the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. in putting up screening measures at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan In-
See MORE on Page 4

CPA purchasing thermal body scanner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To prevent the entry of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, into the CNMI, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is now in the midst of buying a thermal body scanner worth about \$35,000 to



King-Hinds

detect the body temperature of passengers arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

At a regular board meeting yesterday at the Port of Saipan conference room, the CPA board of direc-

tors unanimously approved the purchase of the full body thermal body scanner, which will be coming from Canada. It is just one equipment that is designed to scan the whole body of a person.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said in a later interview that a full body thermal body scanner would not

See SCANNER on Page 4

FACT VERSUS MYTH

By **DYLAN BOUSCHER** and **LISA M. KRIEGER**
THE MERCURY NEWS

MYTH: The coronavirus is new.

FACTS: While this strain of virus—2019-nCoV—is new, it comes from an ancient family of coronaviruses that were first identified in the 1960s. Their name comes from the

crown-like projections on their surface and is derived from "corona," the Latin term for "halo," or "crown."

MYTH: Snakes are responsible for 2019-nCoV.

FACTS: With the discovery of the 2019 coronavirus, we now know there are seven

See FACT on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI Division of Customs intercepts a contraband shipment of liquor and drugs.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

The crackdown on immigrants using government social services goes into effect.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein is convicted of rape and sexual assault.

PAGE 19



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local



CNMI Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas, Finance Secretary David Atalig, Customs planner and public information officer Lareina C. Camacho, and compliance officer James Santos present the contraband of liquor and antibiotics that Santos' team intercepted during routine inspection last Feb. 12.

IVA MAURIN

Customs intercepts contraband from Manila

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Customs intercepted a contraband shipment of liquor and drugs in one of their routine inspections this month.

A total of 140 cases of assorted liquor carefully positioned in the back of the truck, as well as 4,600 capsules of antibiotics hidden inside a box of butter cookies, came with a shipment from Manila, the Philippines, and intercepted by Customs officials in Feb. 12.

The violator of this interception, JU YI Corp., was assessed a penalty, which has been paid in full.

Customs planner and public information officer Lareina C. Camacho said that, had Customs not inspected the container upon its arrival, it would have meant a loss of \$10,000 for the CNMI.

Based on the importer's declaration, the tax owed was initially calculated at \$9,700. Upon the discovery of these hidden and smuggled items—the undeclared liquor and the antibiotics—the total taxes due actually rose to \$19,000, Camacho said.

Camacho added that the street value or the approximate value of the antibiotic is \$1 per capsule and, with 4,600 capsules in all, that would have been an estimated \$4,600 loss to the CNMI.

"This is one of the many challenges that we face at the ports: companies that attempt to smuggle goods and/or falsify their invoices in order to cheat the government and the CNMI community," she said.

Customs warns all importers, businesses, and to everyone in the community that not declaring goods, or under-declaring, will have repercussion.

According to the law, the penalty for contraband items is equivalent to 100% of the value of the goods or commodities. The regulations assess a fine that must be paid in full before the release of the container.

The importer will also be on a "high risk" list and future imports will be inspected 100%.

Health risk

Customs wants to emphasize, especially with regards to antibiotics, that there is a health risk in buying or using pre-

scription drugs without a prescription. Antibiotics can only be imported by those with a medical license or by medical professionals, and not just by any person.

Finance Secretary David Atalig warned that the antibiotics were not only undeclared, but that there are no assurances that they are genuine.

"This is a health risk. It could be counterfeit and if the public are buying this, we could risk their health and their families," Atalig said. "We want to make sure that if you feel like purchasing any drugs from any stores in the Commonwealth, please refrain from doing so and go to the licensed pharmacies that are licensed to give you the actual, genuine drug."

Customs Division director Jose C. Mafnas said that they have made it a priority to monitor counterfeit goods, especially medicines, adding that it was a concern raised at the Oceania Customs Organization where concern on counterfeit medicines had been discussed.

"It is really a health risk. At this time, we are going after [smugglers of counterfeit medicines]. We're going to treat it as drug smuggling. We are concerned and we will be enforcing it," Mafnas added.

What's next?

While the liquor has been released following the full payment of taxes and penalties, Customs is currently working with its partners in having the antibiotics destroyed as the drugs are not allowed for import to the islands.

"We will continue to do our work to ensure that businesses are on the same playing field and that they're reporting property, and that's only for the benefit of our community, the consumers on this island," Atalig said.

As for Customs, Mafnas said that they will start naming the businesses that are involved in these illegal transactions from hereon.

"We want to send a strong message to businesses that are trying to make quick profits by undermining the honest taxpayers. So we're going to start shooting out messages and we will publish their names. This has to stop. It is not fair for those that are honest in their declaration."

Division of Coastal Resources Management SUMMER INTERNSHIP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 15 CNMI-BASED COLLEGE STUDENTS, OR COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CORAL REEF AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT. OUR SUMMER INTERNS WORK 20 HOURS A WEEK FOR 10 WEEKS FROM JUNE TO AUGUST AND ARE PAID \$10.00 PER HOUR.

THIS SUMMER'S INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- » SHORELINE MONITORING
- » EDUCATION & OUTREACH
- » REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
- » SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT
- » MARINE MONITORING
- » WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
- » WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS BY **APRIL 3, 2020** TO THE DCRM OFFICE IN MIDDLE ROAD, GUALO RAI OR BY EMAIL TO MALLORY MUÑA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR COLLEEN FLORES AT CFLORES@DCRM.GOV.MP

CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION
WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.CNMIOPM.NET

COVER LETTER

RESUME/CV

TRANSCRIPTS

OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL

TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

INSTRUCTORS AND/OR EMPLOYERS ONLY

POLICE CLEARANCE

WITHIN THE LAST 3 MONTHS

COPY OF VALID PHOTO ID

DRIVER'S LICENSE, PASSPORT, ETC.



Scan me

Visit the DCRM website at

WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE CONTACT MALLORY MUÑA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR COLLEEN FLORES AT CFLORES@DCRM.GOV.MP OR CALL DCRM AT 664-8300.

Shipments from Asia drop due to virus fears

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The coronavirus outbreak is not only causing a decline in tourists, but is also resulting in a drop in the number of shipments from Asia, according to Finance Secretary David Atalig.

"We're seeing a decline in numbers. This is worldwide. I don't think it's unique to the CNMI," he said. "I've been reading reports, even in the U.S. mainland, that are showing a reduction in shipments coming from Asia, in general, [from] mainland China."

"There's reports of factories and manufacturers in mainland China not being in operation or even able to load containers for export so we will start to see a decline in containers coming from China," Atalig added.

The Wall Street Journal reported of cargo cancellations mainly between China and the rest of the world, plus containers that are not being filled, prompting European and Asian container ship operators to prepare profit warnings for the first half or the full year.

CNMI Customs clarified though that shipments are still coming in here.

With limited goods coming in from China, the public is concerned about a possible price increase. Atalig said the administration has been monitoring the situation, and will ask the Attorney General's Office if a price freeze should be put in place.

"I am aware that the administration is reviewing and looking at price gouging as well," Atalig said. "This is not just only a disaster that we're experiencing, not a natural disaster in formed weather, but this is an economic disaster."

"We're going to experience the effects of the coronavirus in the lack of tourists and visitors that we will be receiving...and gives our retail community or businesses an opportunity to change prices to maximize their profits, but we are reviewing that and the administration will be asking the AG's Office to review should we need to declare a freeze in any pricing," Atalig said.

He stressed, however, that "it's business as usual" at the moment.

"We hope that all businesses are empathetic to the community as we're all going to go through the struggle...and my message would be to just do business as usual and not take advantage of the situation..."

TRIPLE J SAYS YES!

EASY FINANCING? YES!
EASY TRADE-IN? YES!
FAST & FRIENDLY? YES!

QUALITY USED CARS

<p>2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT 21,585 MILES STARTING AT \$12,995 STK: 7HS772</p>	<p>2016 KIA SEDONA 30,883 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 STK: 6HS717</p>	
<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING • 13,250 MILES STARTING AT \$21,995 STK: 8R200</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA3 SPORT PLUS • 12,358 MILES STARTING AT \$16,995 STK: 7HS801</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA 3 SPORT • 24,060 MILES STARTING AT \$14,995 STK: 7HS766</p>
<p>2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 1,523 MILES STARTING AT \$13,995 SOLD STK: 20M002-A</p>	<p>2016 MAZDA3 SPORT PLUS • 20,135 MILES STARTING AT \$14,995 STK: 6R135-D</p>	<p>2010 MAZDA CX-9 TOURING • 78,774 MILES STARTING AT \$9,995 STK: 9D084-A</p>
<p>2018 HYUNDAI KONA 12,352 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 SOLD STK: 18HS869</p>	<p>2015 TOYOTA PRIUS C HYBRID H/B • 31,085 MILES STARTING AT \$14,995 STK: 9M114-A</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA3 SPORT • 13,063 MILES STARTING AT \$16,995 STK: 7HS813</p>
<p>2015 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM 4WD • 9,503 MILES STARTING AT \$30,995 STK: 5HS735</p>	<p>2019 MAZDA CX-3 SPORT • 201 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 9R189</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI KONA 7,538 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 SOLD STK: 18HS872</p>
<p>2014 MAZDA CX-9 TOURING • 44,010 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 STK: 4R222</p>	<p>2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT • 16,017 MILES STARTING AT \$21,995 STK: 6HS752</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SEL • 8,000 MILES STARTING AT \$13,995 STK: 18HS868</p>
<p>2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GLS • 13,017 MILES STARTING AT \$17,995 STK: 7HS820</p>	<p>2016 MAZDA6 15,986 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 6R186</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA 6 SPORT • 15,535 MILES STARTING AT \$17,995 STK: 7HS788</p>

Customers First



TRIPLE J MOTORS

MON-FRI: 8AM TO 6PM • SAT: 8AM TO 5PM
BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU

*On Approved Credit (OAC). Some Conditions Apply. Doc Fees and Registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details.

TEL: (670)234-7133/234-3051
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

Like us on
facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan

CHCC: CNMI still clear of coronavirus

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Because of geography and its proximity to areas with coronavirus outbreaks, the islands may be at a high risk of the virus entering the Commonwealth, but its luck had held out so far, with no cases being reported yet in the CNMI.

In an interview with Commonwealth Health Care Corp. spokesperson Zoe Travis, she said the CNMI is looking good despite its high risk of having a novel coronavirus outbreak.

"It sounds like most of the airlines [from China] are still suspended. ... If we don't have any people coming in, it's not likely that we're going to get a case. Although it's still possible and we're still in a high-risk region," she said.

She assured that the CNMI continues to take precautionary measures. "We want to make sure that we [don't] have an outbreak starting here," she said.

Travis also pointed out that there may still be a threat of an outbreak but thousands who were previously

infected with the virus have already recovered, which is a good sign not just for the CNMI but for other areas as well.

Additionally, Travis said, the mortality rate of COVID-2019 is at around 2%, which she described as "pretty good" compared to other transmissible diseases like Ebola. Mortality rate means the number of people who die against the number of people who become infected.

"A lot of people have recovered, around 27,000. The mortality rate... [has] been holding steady at about 2%

to 3%. The mortality rate for something like Ebola was like 40%. Like there's a huge difference in the mortality rate. This one looks transmissible, but it's less deadly," she said.

According to various media outlets, compared to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which had a mortality rate of 9.6%, COVID-2019 appear to be less deadly. However, COVID-2019 has infected and killed over three times the number of SARS. SARS killed 774 people and infected 8,098 between November 2002 and July 2003, while COVID-2019 killed

nearly three times that in just eight weeks. In China alone, COVID-2019 has killed 2,703 individuals and has infected 80,248.

Travis told the media that there is currently no cure for COVID-2019 but symptoms can be treated until a patient has recovered.

"It's not like there's a cure exactly. Like when you get the flu, there's no cure. You don't take, like, the flu medicine; you just kind of get better. It's like that. So you they treat the symptoms. If they're dehydrated, if they're having respiratory issues, they treat the symptoms and then they either recover or they don't," she said.

FACT

From Page 1

strains that can infect humans. But with more than 200 other coronaviruses infecting various members of the animal kingdom, it's tough to pinpoint which species is responsible for 2019-nCoV's jump to humans. A study published in the Journal of Medical Virology on January 22 suggested that 2019-nCoV may have come from snakes, but it was later refuted.

Researchers now suspect that the Chinese horseshoe bat could be the culprit, with two studies published in the last week announcing that the genome of the new human virus is 96% identical to that of a bat coronavirus. Bats have been implicated in the spread of several deadly viruses among humans, including Ebola, rabies, SARS and MERS. In fact, a paper published last year by scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology suggested "bat-borne CoVs (coronaviruses) will re-emerge to cause the next disease outbreak." But it's too early to say for sure whether the Wuhan coronavirus originated in bats or if an intermediary animal played a role in transferring the virus to people.

MYTH: Bat soup eaters deserve blame for the spread of the new coronavirus.

FACTS: When a video shared on TikTok showed a Chinese woman

chowing down a bowl of bat soup went viral, it sparked outrage online about whether Asian diets are to blame for the 2019-nCoV jump to humans. Wang Mengyun, the Chinese internet vlogger who filmed herself in 2016 eating bat soup in Palau, ended up apologizing for the video and defending herself against death threats. Mengyun clarified in her apology that she ate a fruit bat in the video, which is a local delicacy in Palau. Other kinds of bats are popular in African, Asian and other Pacific Rim countries and cultures, including Guam.

MYTH: Pets can transmit the 2019-nCoV.

FACTS: Dogs and cats are both prone to coronavirus infections. But they're different viruses than ours. And neither variety can be transmitted to humans. There have been no reported cases of pets getting the human virus and no cases of people giving the human virus to their pets.

Glossary

OUTBREAK: A sudden rise in cases of a disease in a particular place.

EPIDEMIC: A large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. The current outbreak of a flu-like illness caused by a new virus in China is considered an epidemic.

PANDEMIC: Generally refers to an epidemic that has spread on a more global scale, affecting large numbers of people. While there are cases of ill-

ness outside China, the World Health Organization said it is not a pandemic. Exactly when enough places have enough infections to declare one isn't a black-and-white decision. But generally, the WHO is looking for sustained outbreaks on different continents.

CORONAVIRUS: Term for a family of viruses. Some cause the common cold while others cause more severe illnesses like SARS, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome, and MERS, which stands for Middle East respiratory syndrome.

COVID-19: Name given to the illness caused by the new coronavirus first identified in China in late 2019. CO and VI are for coronavirus, D is for disease, and 19 for 2019. The virus itself is called SARS-cov-2.

INCUBATION PERIOD: Time between infection and the appearance of signs or symptoms of an illness. The incubation period for the new virus is thought to be up to two weeks.

QUARANTINE: Restrict movement of healthy people who may have been exposed to an infection to see if they become ill. For example, the passengers on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan were quarantined.

ISOLATION: Separate sick people from healthy people to prevent spread of disease. For example, people with the infection are put in isolation in hospitals. *(With AP)*

our tourism industry—we're going to see a drop.

"I'm anticipating a drop in revenues from March and the same time I need to pay 80 hours for payroll for the next two pay periods. So it's going to be a challenge," Atalig said.

He is hoping, though, to get better news as weeks go on, from which adjustments could be made. "We are committed to doing monthly reviews of all our revenues, and analyzing if we need to either reduce more or take further action."

The CNMI, with the rest of the world, has been monitoring the effects the coronavirus on tourism and the economy. Guam, the nearest to Saipan, has been experiencing challenges in tourism as well, but not as bad, given that 40% of the CNMI's tourists are from China, and another 40% are from South Korea.

Atalig said that they are hoping that the arrivals from Japan could help, but even with that, "it's not going to replace the challenges we have with the direct flights with China."

SCANNER

From Page 1

stop the coronavirus from infiltrating the CNMI, but it's one measure that they can take to help fight the spread of the virus.

"Tourism is everybody's business," said King-Hinds, adding that buying such an equipment is one way that CPA can contribute to that process.

One of the symptoms of coronavirus infection is fever and the thermal scanners are supposed to detect that. King-Hinds said the full body scanner just basically detects those have elevated body temperatures that are not within the normal range.

The board chair said with the statistics and the data that are coming out with regard to the coronavirus, people appear to be infecting other people without showing any signs of being infected. "So obviously this [scanner] would only detect those people who are [already] showing symptoms. We understand that, but at the end of the day, any form of prevention is good at our borders," she said.

King-Hinds said they do have challenges with funding but they did think that this was a priority.

She said they are going to figure

out the best way to allocate funds and make some cuts in certain operations and expenditures to fund the purchase of the scanner.

She said they are going to meet with Commonwealth Health Care Corp. officials for them to look at the specifications of the item so they can give CPA their technical expertise on the scope or specifications of that equipment.

"This is an emergency sole-source procurement. So we are getting all the documents," said King-Hinds.

She said CPA will be meeting with CHCC possibly today, Wednesday.

CPA is the one that will be buying the equipment but it will be collaborating with CHCC, which will assign personnel for the scanner. As for CPA, they will spot checks with certain passengers using a specific type of device at the airport.

"We want to be a part of contributing to finding solutions," King-Hinds said, adding that they are going to have their personnel, specifically Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting personnel, who have the training to be there when people are going through the scanner.

She said they have no target date for the scanner to arrive, but they are hoping it will arrive as soon as possible.

MORE

From Page 1

ternational Airport.

"CHCC personnel are present during flight operations," he said.

In tandem with this, CPA continues to work on projects to repair the damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018, Tenorio said.

He said the projects are moving along. Some of those projects are the loading bridges design, commuter terminal design, and the ARFF Training Facility. The bigger projects require design-build and then still need to be bid out.

Four carriers—Beijing Capital, China Eastern, HK Express, and Sichuan Airlines—have already suspended flights into Saipan.

Beijing Capital suspended flights from Jan. 31 to March 28, 2020; China Eastern from Feb. 1 until further notice; Hong Kong Express from Feb. 6 to March 29, 2020; and Sichuan Airlines from Feb. 1 until further notice.

Although some airlines have given timeframes for the suspension of

flights, these are not hard dates, and may still change, said CPA comptroller Skye Lynn L. Aldan Hofschneider.

These four airlines provide a significant percentage of the total revenue collected by CPA, averaging an estimated \$282,537 per month, said Hofschneider in her report about the coronavirus' financial impact on CPA.

Should the flight suspensions extend until the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30, 2020), the total revenue loss is estimated at \$3,916,297: \$2,260,292 in flights suspensions (China routes), \$848,677 in aviation revenue due to load decrease, and \$807,328 in non-aviation revenue (concession and others).

She said the CPA management is working with department heads in reducing their operational budgets for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The estimated loss of \$3.91 million is expected to further increase as Asiana Airlines announced last Feb. 17 that it is cancelling its regular morning flights from Feb. 27 to Feb. 29 and the morning flights from March 4 to March 18. Their afternoon flights will continue normal operations.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

of the 64-hour and 16-hour reduction. Law enforcement, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, is minimizing their overtime to the allowable maximum for 24-hour shifts.

"DFEMS, the police, and Customs, as law enforcement, are on reduced austerity also, but they are on a 24-hour operation as well. They're being reviewed in terms of scheduling," Atalig added.

The Finance secretary revealed that the requests for exemptions are mainly from federal programs, justifying that they are fully-funded by federal grants. Atalig explained, though, that it is a policy of the administration that the reduction be made across-the-board and that no government employee, whether they are federally or locally funded, will be exempted—it is the policy across all government employees.

"The federal programs are requesting for exemptions but, as we experienced last year in the austerity, we did not grant exemption to all federal programs, only those enforcement federal programs like [the] brown tree snake [program] because, just like Customs, they're all imports or inspections," Atalig added.

There is no more reconsideration, and the austerity will come this March 15.

"We're taking the worst-case scenario. We're observing how this coronavirus will affect our economy. I still need to fund full payrolls until the end of March," he added.

Atalig is anticipating reductions in revenue collections, which would prove to be a challenge given that 80-hour payrolls will still need to be paid, at least for the next two pay periods.

"The challenge is the effect of the arrivals from February. I'm going to see reductions in revenue collections, especially from hotel occupancy tax, the spending on tour operators and

NMC recovery efforts moving forward despite austerity

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the Northern Marianas College kicking off what is being dubbed as its first phase of austerity measures, this will not prevent the school from going ahead with plans to rebuild its As Terlaje campus.

Interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico gave this as-

surance, saying the college is moving forward with the recovery efforts from the Super Typhoon Yutu, including the construction of new facilities.

The U.S. Department of Education recently gave NMC a \$21.9-million grant that will be used to build new structures for the students to transfer into. Right now, NMC students are having classes in temporary tents

that the Federal Emergency Management Agency built for NMC for this purpose.

According to Eliptico, NMC is working on the preliminary work that is necessary before any construction begins. "We're still going full force into making sure that the new buildings will be resilient, strong, technologically advanced and state-of-the-art to eliminate any

worries from the students wondering if the school is still [going to be] there after [another] strong typhoon," he said.

"We want to make certain that in the next 30 years we are well prepared for the future by developing and designing a campus that is going to anticipate future growth," added Eliptico.

Since the campus recon-

struction is a large project, it entails four phases that NMC will need to go through. It is currently on its first phase, which consists of a lot of planning and finalizing the design process.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, NMC intends to rebuild an entirely different campus that will feature classrooms amongst instructional buildings, computer labs, specialty labs, a student

resource center, student resource center, buildings for the different fields offered by NMC (Schools of Business, Nursing, Education, and Criminal justice), student housing, and a gymnasium.

In 2019, NMC lost 37 out of its 39 classrooms, and was forced to use certain areas of the campus to make room for the faculty offices, classroom, staff offices, and other relocations. Eliptico said that NMC had to demolish some of its buildings as they were deemed unsafe for use and could not be repaired.



Eliptico

Guam ups monitoring of COVID-19 cases in region

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, working with local and federal partners, continues to monitor the developing situation with the 2019 novel coronavirus, abbreviated as COVID-19, to include the increase in confirmed cases in Japan and South Korea.

"We continue to monitor the latest developments. As much as we prepare for any possible outcome, we also ask the community to take extra precautions and prepare for the possibility of the novel coronavirus entering our island," said Linda Unpingco DeNorcey, DPHSS director.

At this time, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19, and there are no cases that meet the CDC criteria for a Person Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Guam.

Tourism concerns

The Guam Visitors Bureau continues to communicate closely with its overseas and local partners. Previously reported data regarding cancellations do not account for those visitors who may have or plan to rebook their travel to a later date. Most cancellations to Guam are from South Korean markets. "This situation is changing at a rapid pace and we are adapting to it as we go. The GVB board and its management are prepared to make key decisions to support Guam's top industry," said acting GVB president and CEO Bobby Alvarez.

Guam continues to follow U.S. federal regulations and will welcome travelers under those provisions. At this time, the U.S. continues to receive South Korean travelers. "With all the protocols in place on federal and local levels, Guam has multiple preventative layers to help detect, report, and isolate potential cases," said Alvarez.

CDC travel health notices

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:

■ South Korea: Level 3, Avoid Non-Essential Travel; last updated Feb. 24;

■ China: Level 3, Avoid Non-Essential Travel; last up-

dated Feb. 22;

■ Japan: Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions; last updated Feb. 22;

■ Hong Kong: Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions; issued Feb. 19.

Those planning to travel are advised to check the latest information from the following sites:

■ CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

■ U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Prevent the spread

While the immediate risk of this new virus to the island of Guam remains low at this time, everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat:

■ It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.

■ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water

are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

■ Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed hands.

■ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

■ Practice proper cough etiquette. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

■ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.

■ Stay home when you are sick; do not go to work or school.

■ Educational print-ready materials about the prevention of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 are available for download, print, and distribution on the DPHSS website: [http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-n-cov/\(PR\)](http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-n-cov/(PR))

ARMATECH

RF Door Lock
System Services
& Maintenance



Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

File Your Income Tax Return
DEADLINE 4.15.2020

TBK Document Handling

2nd floor of Dollar Days (Garapan) Next To
Majesty Chinese Restaurant.

Open: Monday - Friday Tel: 233-2288

8:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DOLLAR DAYS FLOWERSHOP

10 AM TO 6 PM

(Pick Up Form Only)

SAIPAN MARIANAS CORPORATION

**CLEANING &
MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

For inquiries, contact us at

1 (671) 683-3844

Email: spnmarianas.corp@gmail.com

P.O. Box 504939

Saipan, MP 96950



First Hawaiian Bank.
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center,
Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090

Oleai Branch, Oleai Center,
Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

FHB.COM

Plan ahead with
a checking account
that does the same.

PRIORITY BANKINGSM

Climb the financial ladder with preferred loan rates,²
discounted bank services, and other privileges.³

Learn more at fhb.com.

GET \$300

when you open or upgrade to a
Priority Banking Checking account
and also open a Priority Savings
account with \$30,000 or more from
another financial institution by
2/28/20.¹



Member FDIC

¹ Open or upgrade to a Personal Priority Banking Checking Account and open a new Priority Savings with a minimum deposit of \$30,000 drawn from another financial institution by February 28, 2020 and receive a \$300 statement credit to your savings account. The statement credit will be completed the month following meeting the criteria. Limit of one statement credit per customer or account. Statement credit may be reportable as taxable income (1099-INT). Minimum opening deposit of \$100 (or just \$5 with direct deposit) for Priority Banking 1 and 2, and \$1,000 for Priority Banking 3. Accounts closed or converted out of Priority Banking within 180 days will be assessed a \$75 charge. Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. As of 11/29/19, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for a Personal Priority Banking Level 2 checking account is 0.02%, and for Level 3 is 0.04% for daily balances less than \$2,500 and 0.04% for daily balances of \$2,500 or more. The APYs for Priority Savings are 0.02% for daily balances under \$10,000, 0.05% for balances \$10,000 through \$24,999.99 and 0.07% for balances \$25,000 and over. The rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. The monthly service charge is \$15 for Priority Level 1, \$19 for Level 2, \$22 for Level 3 and \$4 for Priority Savings. Business and corporate accounts do not qualify for this offer.

² All loans and lines of credit are subject to credit approval. For lines of credit, there is no discount on introductory fixed rates or fixed rate locks unless otherwise indicated in a specific promotion. Home equity lines of credit are not available in CNMI. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

³ Banking services and special benefits depend on the Priority Level you apply for and maintain. These benefits may be lost if account is closed or converted to another type of account. Please see a Priority Banking Plan Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. The offer cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers, or promotions.

UOG is recognized as a ‘Military Friendly School’

The University of Guam is one of 625 schools nationwide that has been named to the 2020–2021 Military Friendly Schools list.

The annual list scores higher education institutions on their commitment to and success in creating opportunities for military veterans and their spouses. The University of Guam earned the silver designation on the list, meaning its score ranked within 20% of the top 10 schools in the small public schools category.

“We value our military and veteran students and are committed to providing the best student services for them and their dependents,” said Lawrence F. Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at the university. “Achieving this recognition accentuates our dedication to that strategy.”

Nearly 300 students attending the University of Guam are former servicemembers or dependents of servicemembers. The university offers in-state

tuition to all military students and specific scholarship opportunities as well as several military-specific student services, including tutoring and study skills workshops, counseling services specializing in anxiety and PTSD, career guidance, accommodations for students with disabilities, networking events, and a Veteran Resource Center.

“Our veteran and military students and their dependents are a large and important part of both our community and our university campus,” said



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Veteran students at the University of Guam stand in the UOG Student Center by a board of yellow ribbons that each memorialize or commemorate a special veteran. From left, Lawrence Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success; Dan Camacho; Jan Fontbuena; Amy Jackson; Mark Mantanona; Anthony Mamaligsa; and Arline Leon Guerrero, Veterans Resource Center academic adviser.

Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president and provost. “We want them to feel welcome and supported here, and we want them to succeed.”

The Military Friendly Schools list provides a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families of institutions with favorable rates for student retention, graduation, job placement,

loan repayment, degree advancement, and loan default for students and student veterans, in particular.

The schools are scored based on data from federal agencies and survey information from the participating organizations. The scoring methodology was independently evaluated by Ernst & Young.

The 2020–2021 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine. The list can also be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and dependents interested in attending the University of Guam can visit <https://url.uog.edu/military> for more information. (UOG)

‘Walk for Parents’ on Feb. 29

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs’ Division of Youth Services is inviting the public to a “Walk for Parents” event this Saturday, Feb. 29. Registration for the walk is free and will be-

gin at 6am at the Oleai Beach Pavilion. The route will be from the Oleai Beach Pavilion to Quartermaster Road and back.

Walk for Parents is a morning walk to recognize

and show appreciation for all parents in the CNMI and is the closing event for the CNMI’s Parent Leadership Month.

For more information, call the DCCA-DYS Parent Education Program at 237-1015/1017. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/PDMP-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM SOFTWARE SYSTEM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP’s** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/DOHS-OD2A-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“OFFICE SPACE LEASE”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP’s** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA’s Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

Municipality of Tinian and Augiguan
P.O. Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com
Tel.: (670) 433-2200 • Facsimile: (670) 433-1819

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., at the PM Building, Room 104, San Jose Village Tinian, at the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Office.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
November 24, 2019,
December 12, 2019 &
January 10, 2020

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
A. Election of Officers
B. Review of Spring 2020 Applicants

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

*We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
*Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
*Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-005

SUBMISSION DATE: April 8, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“CNMI Government Long Range Twenty-Year Highway Master Plan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL WILL BE HELD ON March 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 26, 2020. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Marianas College
BOARD OF REGENTS’ SPECIAL MEETING
February 27, 2020 - 9:00am
BOR Conference Room, Saipan, Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted.

III. New Business
a. FY2021 Appropriations Budget Request

IV. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
a. Legal Matters
b. Personnel Matters

V. Adjournment

/s/ Charles V. Cepeda
BOR Chairperson

Manglona declines to recuse from case vs the two Ataligs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona declined Monday to recuse herself from presiding over the corruption case against Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig.

Manglona heard the motion Monday afternoon after the Ataligs sent Friday a sealed letter asking her to recuse from the case.

It was revealed at last week's hearing that Sharon Manglona is a possible material witness for the defense. Sharon Manglona is the wife of the brother of Justice John A. Manglona, who is the husband of Judge Ramona Manglona.

Judge Manglona cited, among other things, the timing of the motion as it's close to the trial date of March 10, 2020. She also disagreed with the defense that Sharon Manglona is a possible material witness.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom Monday late afternoon, David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig, and assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley were still argu-

after reviewing documents submitted to the court.

On the motion to recuse, Banes argued that it's not personal bias, but it's just public perception as Judge Manglona's impartiality is in question.

Banes said that, based on the first interview with their investigator, Sharon Manglona is a very significant witness or a material witness.

O'Malley said his understanding is that Sharon Man-

glona was not responsible for anything.

Banes disagreed with O'Malley that there was a "rubber stamp process," which is why they want to put Sharon Manglona on the witness stand.

"This is a key issue for us,"

Banes said.

Banes said they need Sharon Manglona to testify and let the prosecution prove facts as they will also prove the defense's.

Banes said they will contest

the government's version that the travel authorization and travel vouchers were not transmitted to Finance on Saipan.

Banes said they are not speculating and that they're scheduled to re-interview that night (yesterday) Sharon Manglona, who is currently in the Philippines.

Banes said Sharon Manglona stated that documents were sent to Saipan Finance electronically and that Finance approved it.

In the federal court case, the charges against the Ataligs involve at least eight trips taken

by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit fire fraud and federal funds theft.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General filed a second amended information that re-charged Mayor Atalig and seven others with misconduct in public office and eliminated the prior counts of theft.



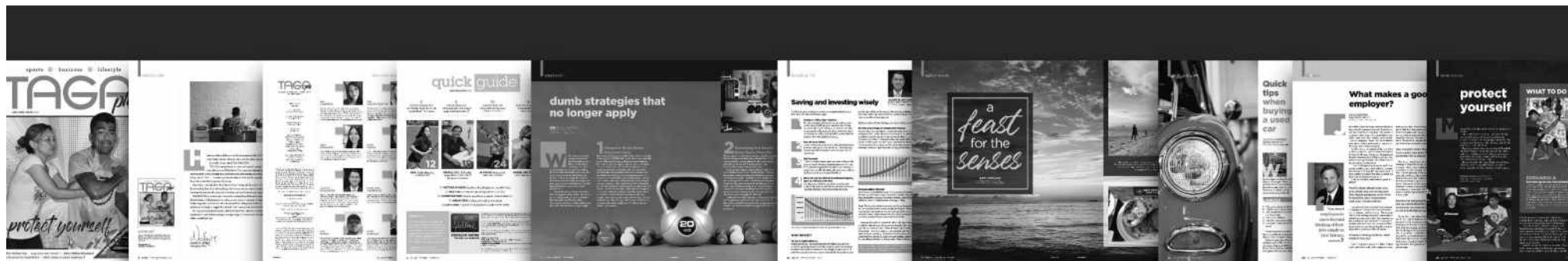
Manglona



FLORAL ART

Participants of the recent Sustainable Floral Art Workshop at the Northern Marianas College learned how to make floral art using everyday household items and fresh local flowers. The event was made possible by Project PROA and the Community Development Institute at NMC. For more information about Project PROA and the Community Development Institute, visit www.marianas.edu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TAGA

plus

sports  business  lifestyle

ADVERTISING BENEFITS

Affordable rate and wide exposure | Longer shelf life | High reach prospective

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

LTA working to launch barbering, stylist program

The Latte Training Academy Inc. is working to bring licensed and qualified barbering and stylist instruction to the CNMI. The CNMI does not require a professional license to be a barber or stylist, something that LTA believes is a risk to the public. In all 50 states and Guam, barbers who traditionally perform male haircuts, and stylists, typically referred to as beauticians, require professional licensing. LTA board member Jeremy Sasamoto, who has worked in the CNMI's public health system for over 10 years, understands the importance of licensing and regulations when dealing with the public.

"The profession of barbering and styling is a licensed trade in all 50 states and the U.S. territory of Guam. As many of the interactions that barbers and stylists have with the general public deal with hy-

giene and chemicals, they are directly tied to public health. As a tourist destination, we should make every effort to ensure that our personal care industry is staffed with professionals who have been properly trained and licensed," said Sasamoto.

LTA has partnered with licensed barbers and stylists who have met the rigorous standards of licensing in the states of Illinois, Colorado, and North Carolina. The organization intends to bring these professionals on-island for the instruction and hands-on portion of the training. This includes the owner and operator of the Pueblo School of Cosmetology, Marie Deherrera and award-winning barber Reece Cambo, who has been a licensed barber in Chicago and is now licensed in Colorado.

"We are excited to begin instruction on Saipan. Our team understands that there

are not currently any licensing requirements in the CNMI; however, our condensed course has a 200-hour curriculum designed specifically so that students can knowledgeably and confidently enter the workforce feeling comfortable in the career path they have chosen. Throughout the course students will be tested similarly to the licensing examinations that are administered throughout any of the 50 states. The course covers topics of hygiene, technique, chemicals, customer interactions and host of other topics, which are tested for throughout the country," said Cambo.

As an approved training provider with the CNMI State Workforce Development Board, LTA will submit its curriculum for review and approval. The course will be a hybrid of book work and hands-on experience under

the supervision of Deherrera and Cambo. For the hands-on component of the course, participants will provide haircuts to various segments of the population free of charge. This is intended to ensure that participants are comfortable with working with clients of all ages and varying tastes in haircuts and style. As part of their participation in the program, students will be provided equipment and materials to smoothly transition into the profession as a barber or stylists.

"This program is necessary to ensure that our community continues to have access to barbers and stylists beyond the CW program. The board of directors has worked hard to reduce the program costs to ensure that we could train residents who are interested in pursuing this career option. The alternative to bringing licensed professionals to the CNMI to

instruct is to send student's off-island to access the instruction, which is financially unfeasible. We are hopeful that the CNMI State Workforce Development Board is in alignment with our approach" said LTA board member Ed Arriola, Jr.

The program is intended to fill a void that will be left with the transition of the CW workforce from the CNMI. LTA also intends to work with the CNMI Parole Board and Department of Corrections to provide training and skill building for interested residents who will be transitioning back into the community from incarceration. The organization encourages various segments of the population to consider this as a career opportunity, particularly young folks who are junior and/or seniors in high school.

"Throughout the country, the profession of barbering and hairstyling is often a trade that many folks who were

formerly incarcerated learned while they were serving their sentence. It provides a productive opportunity for them to transition back into the community and secure gainful employment, which ultimately reduces recidivism. It is also a career that many young people have pursued while in high school. In Guam, we learned of Ryo Eda, a senior at Harvest Christian Academy who is currently pursuing the development of his talents while he is completing his high school career. He works alongside licensed barbers to help refine his craft and prepare him for his attendance in barbering school in Hawaii," said Juan-Carlos Benitez, LTA board president.

LTA plans on opening registration upon approval of the curriculum from the CNMI's State Workforce Development Board. The organization encourages interested participants to contact the organization at contact.us@latte.academy for more information. (PR)

Child care providers undergo refresher on ratings system



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 112 child care providers have their picture taken after an orientation on the CNMI Child Care and Development Fund's Quality Rating and Improvement System last Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Marianas High School cafeteria.

Child care providers in the CNMI went through a three-hour orientation at the Marianas High School cafeteria last Saturday, Feb. 8, to refresh their knowledge about a system that is used to assess the quality of

the services they provide.

A total of 112 child care providers attended the orientation for the CNMI Child Care and Development Fund's Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Dr. Jasmin Niedo, Evergreen Learning's program manager and QRIS assessor, facilitated the orientation. Evergreen Learning is CCDF's partner in implementing the activities and procedures for

the quality care initiative.

QRIS is defined as "a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings." Niedo said the QRIS is intended to help par-

ents make decisions in choosing high quality child care.

The CNMI QRIS first launched in July 2016. Last Saturday's training kicked off the initiative's fourth year of implementation in the CNMI.

Under the QRIS system, child care programs are rated along a five-star level system,

with level 5 representing the highest quality. To determine the star level, programs are assessed on how they meet quality in six standard areas: health and safety, staffing and professional development, child growth and development, children with disabilities, family engagement and strengthening, and leadership and management.

From March to June 2020, all CCDF-certified child care facilities in the CNMI will be

observed to determine their level of quality. Those who will make the observations are certified QRIS assessors and have earned interrater reliability on the Environment Rating Scales and the Program Administration Scale—the tools used by CCDF to measure program quality.

Participation in the QRIS is mandatory for all child care programs that are CCDF-certified to register children who receive child care subsidy under the CCDBG Reauthorization of 2014.

For more information on the QRIS, visit the CNMI Child Care Licensing Program's website at <http://www.cnmic-clp.gov.mp/cnmi-qris/> or contact via email Maribel Loste, CCDF administrator at mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 26, 1999

Bill protects kids from domestic violence

A proposed legislation protecting children from abuse and violence within the family drew support at a Senate hearing yesterday from government agencies responsible for promoting family values in the Northern Marianas. House Bill 11-30 will also be tackled in community meetings on Rota and Tinian, according to Sen. Ricardo Atalig, chair of the Senate committee on Health, Education and Welfare which is deliberating the measure. Eloise Furey, director of the Division of Youth Services, urged lawmakers to pass the bill in light of the growing cases of child abuse and domestic violence on the island.

Inmate starts fire in escape try

One of the eight escaped convicts was again itching to go free but his causing a fire Wednesday afternoon will only prolong his stay inside the Division of Correction. William Sablan, convicted of several counts of assault, battery and robbery, started a fire inside the central male detention by burning his futon. He will be charged with arson. According to reports prepared by the Department of Public Safety, an emergency call was made past 5 p.m. last Wednesday reporting a structure fire in the central male detention. The entire facility was filled with smoke

and prisoners were temporarily transferred while the place was secured, said DPS spokesperson Rose Ada.

February 26, 2001

Filipinos warned against pyramiding

The Philippine Consulate General released Friday an advisory that seeks to warn Filipinos in the Northern Marianas against alleged illegal money-making schemes widely known as pyramiding. The alleged fund-generating scam has reportedly victimized a significant number of Overseas Filipino Workers in the CNMI. The alert came in light of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry's pending investigations on two companies that could face sanctions for violating securities and trades laws. The two firms identified as Power Homes Unlimited Corporation and Prosperity.com (said to be linked with Prosperity Mansions, also known as Golconda Ventures) allegedly lure clients for investment opportunities with the companies, with the promise that it would translate to a lump sum profit for the investors.

Tinian student gets 4-year full scholarship

Regina C. Palacios, a student from Tinian High School, will be receiving a full scholarship to Western Oregon University for four years, where she will be seeking an undergraduate degree in Business Administration. Ms. Palacios is the daughter of Pedro Hofschneider Palacios and Bernadita Cruz Palacios. She graduated salutatorian from Tinian High School in May 2000. Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board chairman Janet King was instrumental in administering the scholarship on behalf of Telesource. "The people of Tinian are grateful to Telesource

for providing the opportunity for one student each year for the next 12 years to receive full funding as part of their commitment to our community," she said in a press statement.

February 26, 2005'

A rising star's wish comes true

The Make-A-Wish Foundation posted another milestone last Friday when it made another child's dream come true by providing a full CD recording for Amber Lynn Rosario Mendiola who was born with a congenital heart defect. Amber was surprised Friday morning to see hundreds of her school mates at the Marianas High School lined up at their school hallways as Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Stel Star Productions brought her CDs to her room. Amber said she could not remember being more happy than when she saw the CDs. She also premiered her very own music video in the afternoon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CNMI gets payment for .mp use

The CNMI government has received some \$4,000 payment from Saipan DataCom for its use of the dotMP (.mp) domain. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, in a Feb. 23, 2005 memorandum to Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig, said the money is the initial payment from the company in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract, which it signed earlier with the CNMI government. He said the remittance represents the CNMI's portion of the domain registration fees paid during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2004. "This is a positive indication that the contract will be very beneficial to the people of the CNMI," Babauta said.

GMS places 2nd at Challenge Bowl

Green Meadow School would like to congratulate its Middle School Academic Bee Team—Joseph Victor Jimenez, Areeza Gaile Anda, Danielle Nicole Sacramento, Chealzka Navarro, and John Edsel Hinolan—for winning second place at the annual Middle School Academic Challenge Bowl last Feb. 1, 2020, at Saipan Southern High School.

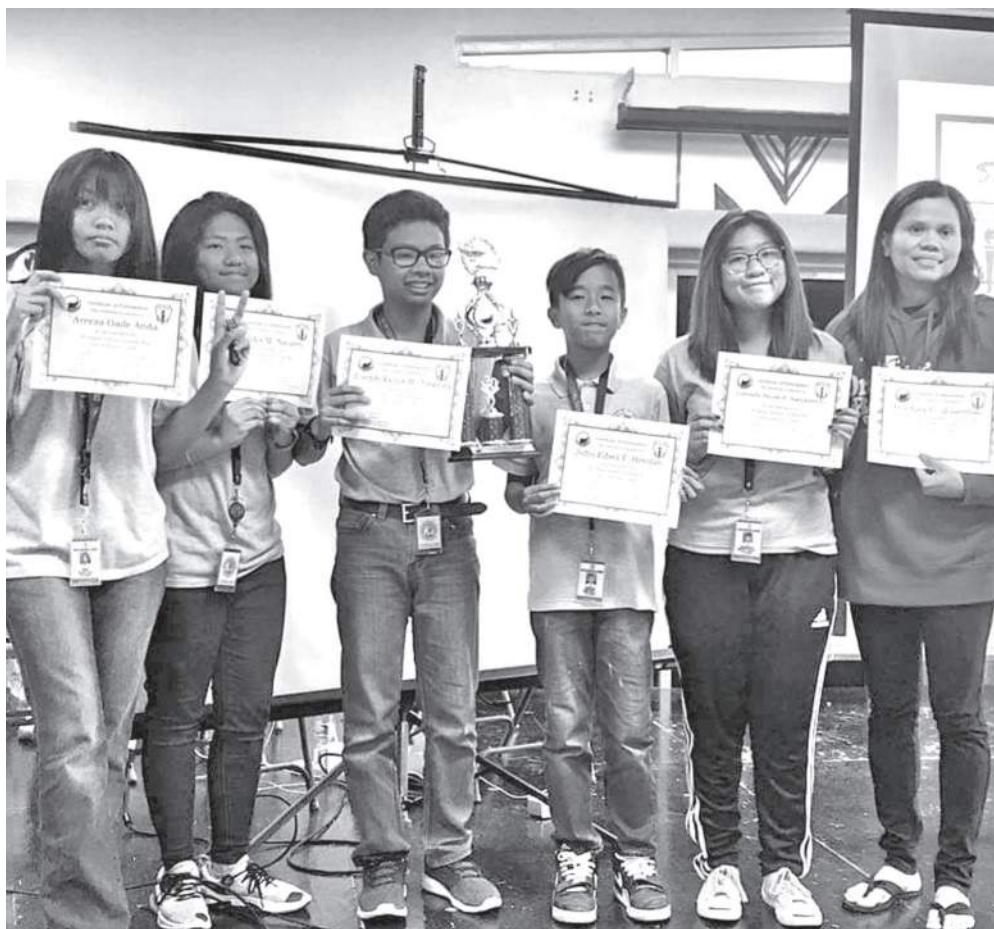
Of the 11 public and pri-

vate schools that participated, GMS tied with Hopwood Middle School and Agape Christian School in third place during the first half of the competition.

GMS was qualified to compete in the final round with four other schools and, for a moment, it looked like the team was going to go the distance because they remained on top of other schools. GMS eventually finished second

place with only 10 points from ACS, which won the championship.

Despite this, the whole GMS family is proud of these middle school students for bringing honor and prestige to the school. This is so far the highest achievement GMS has had in the state-wide academic challenge bowl. Last year, GMS team won fourth place in the same event. (PR)



The Green Meadow School team is presented with their certificates and trophy after winning second place at the annual Middle School Academic Challenge Bowl last Feb. 1, 2020, at Saipan Southern High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWS BRIEFS

NMHC offers loan deferment assistance

Due to the impending austerity measures and the anticipated economic hardships as a result of the decline in the tourism industry as affected by the suspension of visitor arrivals from China and reduced flights from Korea, most, if not all Northern Marianas Housing Corp. clients will somehow be affected.

Therefore, NMHC will place a blanket deferment assistance of all of its loans for a period of three months, which will begin March 1, 2020, and will end on May 31, 2020. Interest shall not accrue during the three-month period. Beginning June 1, 2020, all loans will be reinstated to their regular monthly payments and an additional three months will be added on to the loan maturity.

If you do not wish to avail of this assistance, you must provide NMHC an official cancellation notice of the deferment assistance being offered.

Should you have any further questions, contact the Mortgage & Credit Division

at telephone numbers 234-6866/9447/7689/7670. (PR)

Ask USCIS: Implementation of public charge inadmissibility final rule

Do you have questions about the implementation of the inadmissibility on public charge grounds final rule? We want to hear from you.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will implement the final rule beginning with applications and petitions postmarked (or, if applicable, submitted electronically) on or after Feb. 24, 2020. USCIS updated the policy manual and posted information to USCIS.gov.

If you have general questions or need more clarification on how USCIS will implement the final rule, submit questions by emailing public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov by Feb. 28 at noon Eastern. Put "Public Charge" in the subject line. USCIS will not address case-specific questions.

Responses to frequently asked questions will be posted to the USCIS Electronic Reading Room. (PR)

SHRM membership meeting on Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management- NMI Chapter will have a general membership meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom beginning at 11:30am.

At the meeting, representatives of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance and SHRM NMI will provide information about the federal issues concerning the NMI's labor and immigration updates. The presenters will also discuss other provisions and requirements of the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, U.S. Public Law 115-218 such as the three-fourths guarantee.

This meeting is open to the public. The meeting includes a lunch buffet at the cost of \$25 for SHRM members and \$35 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela by email at roman.tudela@gmail.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at (670) 323-5867/68. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council & Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

P.O. Box 501521, Navy Hill - Bldg. N2 Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), in collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), invite the public to share comments regarding the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified State Plan. Below are the locations, dates and times for the public meetings:

Saipan

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Navy Hill
Friday, February 28, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tinian

Tinian Mayor's Office, San Jose
Friday, March 10, 2020
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Rota

Rota Mayor's Office, Songsong
Friday, March 13, 2020
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SRC and OVR believe that feedback and comments are valuable for program improvement. The State Plan can be reviewed on the OVR website: www.ovrgov.net. Comments on these policies or for other accommodations, can be emailed to Tomeko Kaipat at tomeko@ovrgov.net, by phone at (670) 322-6537, TTY at (670) 322-6549, or by mail to P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950.

Public comments will be received up until March 18, 2020.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisou,

/s/ Maryann Borja-Arriola
Director

Voice (670) 322-6537/8/9
TTY: (670) 322-6549 | Fax: (670) 322-6536
E-mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net | Website: www.ovrgov.net

This publication is made possible by Title I, Basic Support Grant, DOE, OSERS.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 39Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Katherine Johnson's inspiring life as a mathematician and barrier breaker is a model for all generations to come

If women and girls in this country are making any progress on shattering the negative stereotypes of what they can do in mathematics and engineering, they have Katherine Johnson to thank for helping to pave the way.

Johnson was a pioneer at NASA and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics between 1930 and 1970. She, along with other black women, helped make critical calculations that launched our astronauts into orbit.

But as important, the challenges they fought through inspired generations of women, and especially women of color, who came after them to believe that they too could succeed.

We join a nation in mourning Johnson's death Monday at the age of 101. Hers was a life well-lived—an example of how talent, perseverance and hard work can benefit all mankind.

It's encouraging that the world finally came to recognize this important pioneer and her colleagues. Johnson, Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson were celebrated in the movie "Hidden Figures." Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 from President Barack Obama. And all four were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal when President Donald Trump signed the Hidden Figures Act into law last year.

They've received such accolades because they represent the possibilities of overcoming obstacles and the potential for success in STEM fields for women and girls.

It's that spirit that led Dallas ISD to open Solar Prep, the all-girls school focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. It's the reason the district has put so much effort into its P-Tech programs to offer pathways to STEM degrees to match up the hundreds of available jobs with skilled workers who can fill them.

We know we still have a long way to go to improve the number of women in such jobs. Women are still underrepresented in STEM fields, with estimates of about a quarter of the workforce. The percentage of women of color is far less than that.

Studies show that gender biases and stereotypes that girls are not good in math present barriers that continue to block women's progress.

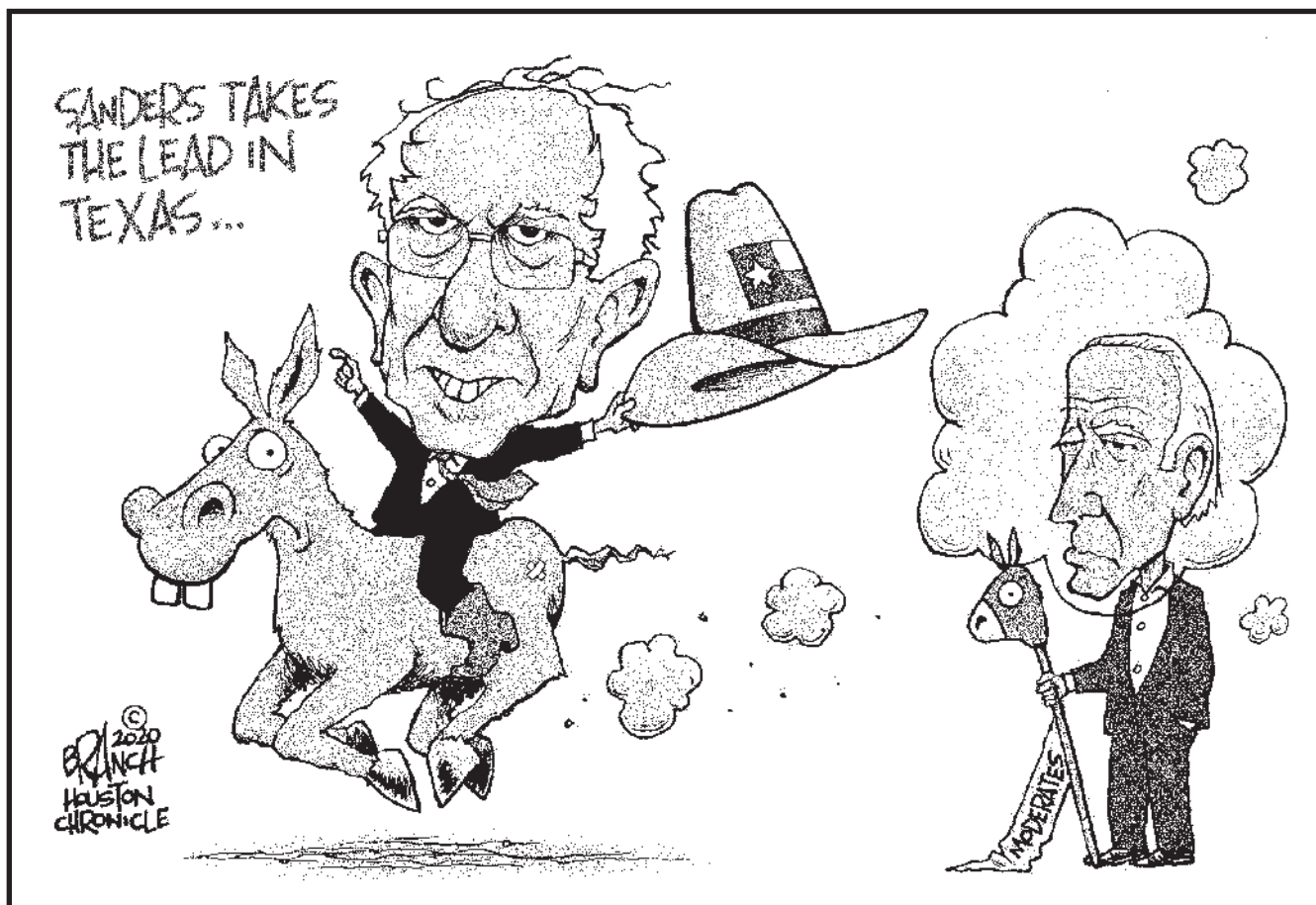
But these are lucrative fields that drive our economy and can help women earn more to potentially close the gender pay gap. Not to mention that women can contribute mightily to advancements in technology and engineering.

The Hidden Figures bill authored by U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas credited Katherine Johnson and other black women with contributing to World War II aircraft testing, supersonic flight, the Voyager probes and landing the first humans on the moon in 1969.

"The stories of these four women exemplify the experiences of hundreds of women who worked as computers, mathematicians and engineers at NACA beginning in the 1930s," the bill's text reads.

Who knows how many more Katherine Johnsons might be out there today. We have to do everything we can to find them and give them the opportunity to succeed.

(c)2020 The Dallas Morning News



Flags over Iwo Jima

By PAUL M. MCCARDELL
THE BALTIMORE SUN

"The most beautiful scene in all the blue Pacific today is an American flag whipping the breeze on the top of the Suribachi volcano."

—From the Feb. 24, 1945, *Evening Sun*

Seventy-five years ago this month, the United States military forces were fighting the bloodiest battle in their history. And a *Baltimore Sun* foreign correspondent was there to catch the scoop of a lifetime.

Iwo Jima, an island covered in volcanic ash, about 5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide at its broadest, sat roughly 600 miles east of Japan's main islands. It had been made into a giant fortress, with deep caves and tunnels to underground bunkers and pillboxes, and more than 22,000 well-entrenched Japanese soldiers ready to defend it. The island was important for its airfields, from which Japanese fighter planes could attack U.S. B-29 Superfortresses heading to Japan.

In December 1944, the Americans had launched almost daily bombing raids on Iwo Jima. Then, in February, a huge American invasion fleet arrived. It carried, among others, Philip S. Heisler, a *Baltimore Sun* war correspondent and amateur hypnotist. He had traveled across the Pacific from Pearl Harbor, reportedly hypnotizing a group of pilots along the way so they could finally get a good night's sleep.

Heisler spent most of his first day on Iwo Jima in and out of foxholes with a division of Marines that was inching forward to capture one of the Japanese airfields, while being raked by mortar fire and snipers for many hellish hours.

But on Feb. 23 he was offshore, aboard ship. That's when another marine division moved to take Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima's highest point, from which you could see the entire island. It was a slow task through withering fire. But at 9:40 a.m. that day, having cut off Suribachi from the rest of the island and, aided by aerial bombardments and artillery and heavy rainstorm, they raised the first American flag atop the summit. Marine photographer Louis Lowery was there to capture the event.

The cheers were deafening from all around the island and offshore, where Heisler was watching the events unfold. Then all hell broke loose with the Japanese seeming to open up with every gun they had. The Marines held the summit using flamethrowers.

But their job wasn't done. The Marines wanted to secure the first flag they planted for history and replace it with a bigger flag. The second flag was taken to the summit, with the Marines accompanied by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, Marine photographer Pfc. Bob Campbell and Sgt. William Genaust, a motion picture photographer.

One group of Marines raised the second flag as another took down the first flag. Joe Rosenthal decided to focus on the

second flag and took the iconic photo that became one of the most famous photographs in U.S. history, as well as a symbol of World War II, the Marines, American courage and much more. The photo won the Pulitzer Prize and became a U.S. postage stamp in 1945 and 1995.

The photograph was later used as a model for the Marine Corps War Memorial dedicated Nov. 10, 1954. Gen. Lemuel C. See **FLAGS** on Next Page



This iconic photo, taken by Joe Rosenthal, shows U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, Fifth Division, hoisting an American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima volcano, after battling the Japanese to the top of the crater.

JOE ROSENTHAL

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pipinu' Na Sagu

Isagun coronavirus pipinu' na chenut mina' presisu sattun na inadahe gi hinemlu' todū. Ha saguaniye hanum i gofes estake ti siña i tautau humaguñg ya pininu'.

Mauleg sa' taya' trabiha nu este na peste guine. Pot pipinu' mina' mauleg in' adahe hinemlu' miyu. Taya' kampu para in' chansa diskuidu!

Hana hassuyu' ni pestin sarampion Haliman antes. Pa'gu i Coronavirus dispues gaige lokue' mafanana'an Norovirus. Dios mihu chenut elmundu. Puede umahnana ti mattu mage este na peste.

Mauleg disision i gobietnu 'nai ha choma' bisitan ginen iya China, dichu lugat 'nai mafañagu i sagun Coronavirus. Fuera de makat para i tautau dudayu' kau talañgag umapagaye este na peste.

Maribaha

I fondun publiku gi todū nasyon man-rinibaha lokue' na biahe ginen machalapun sagun Coronavirus. Todū bumiahe para otu lugat gi oriya manma-utut ensegidas pot para uma-ataha machalapun coronavirus.

I namanman i tai amot este na sagu. Trabiha i mediku ti masodada'e dulongña. Kase tinaka' ta'lu un' añu antes de u guaha amot para este na sagu. Poresu na mauleg in' fan sattun gi inadahe hinemlu' membron familia piot i man-amku'.

Ha'ilas

Namagof i guaha sattun na inadahe gi magastan dididi' na moneda gi kaha. Kontra patten tiau na biahe para ta usune estake kayada este na malakondision hinemlu' ni umaffekta ekonomia-ta gi mismu tiempu.

I luserun disposision gaige gi konsensian kada unu gi manma-elihe. Hu añogghu disposision niha guine na patte. Makomprende na mas na biahe menus fondu gi kahan i tanu'. Tapan asuñgun sa' hagacha' hit lokue' tiempun ha'ilas.

Fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral can be 'saved' another way: digitally

New reporting about last spring's devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris—and, specifically, how the world-renowned structure is still at risk of collapse—offers yet another reminder of the fragility of humankind's greatest creations and the stark reality that centuries of culture and history can be wiped out in minutes.

Several years ago, in spring 2016, I was at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, one of the oldest and most renowned art museums in the world. I was there to announce the 3D digitization of the museum's entire collection of 1,250 pieces of irreplaceable classical Greek and Roman sculpture in a partnership with my university. The very morning of our big announcement, a section of the embankment along the nearby Arno River collapsed, swallowing dozens of cars in a lot very close to the museum.

For residents of that Renaissance city and students of history, the collapse was an eerie reminder of one of Italy's greatest modern disasters, the 1966 flood of the Arno, which killed over 100 people and damaged or destroyed millions of priceless works of art and books.

For those of us who were at the Uffizi—home to some of the most priceless masterworks of Botticelli, Caravaggio, da Vinci, Fra Angelico, Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian—the morning's disaster quickly underscored the importance and urgency of the mission our university and the museum were preparing to undertake.

Like the 2018 fire at the National Museum of Brazil, which resulted in a devastating and catastrophic loss of culture, history and science, the fire at Notre Dame signaled a need to redouble our efforts toward greater digital preservation of our most important cultural resources.

Of course, a digital copy of a painting, print or sculpture can never replace the original. But it can ensure that all of this mate-

Propiu i tiempu lokue' para ta konsidera seriosamente maribahan mineduñg gobietno-ta. Guaha mas lai ta nesessita? Gi hilu' este presisu dos guma' lehislatura yan 29 na membro?

Yangin ta ribaha ya tana'e programan i tautau mas fondu na ti magahet na mas este na disposision benefisiosu para i tautau? Taimanu un' justifika manadan empleau gi gobietnu? Haf' na benefisiu para i tautau?

Mattu i tiempu 'nai debi u guaha fotmat gi gastun setbi-siun publiku. Obligasion i man-ma'gas ma-asegura na taya dispetidisiu. Pot chafleg ekonomia-ta na fuetsau debi ta adah-e i dididi' na moneda gi kaha. Ha gacha' hit lokue' tiempun ha'ilas!

Na'mamahlau:

Lau paire umayau kepblen otu. Esta chumalegyu' 'nai kontodu si Lusifet ha ayau. Dios mihu! Adahe para un' sablasus i ma'gas iya papa'!

Ayu gumu'ut attension-hu manu 'nai umeyag inipus ke professionat na eskalera dinage. De dios! Adahe para unna' fontun si Lusifet. Ilegña si Magu, "Adahe na man-parientes!"

Triniste

Ha gacha'yu' triste na oga'an. Sige hu taka' haf' na taiguine siñienteg-hu. Era, hu guifè man-madispone na mañelu-hu na manmattu para bai marikonose kau felis ha'ani-hu.

Guiya este na che'luhu i hihot giya guahu 'nai estaba guine. Diariu uma-aligau ham 'nai umana'e ham konsuelu gi ha'anen mame. Hu sen agradesi e grasiu siha na konbetsasion, kontodu 'nai man-hame mañganta gi barandan hagas guma' gi Lali Fo'. Bien felis!

Metgut

Sige famaguon mañ-afatta haye mas metgut na rasan tautau. Sumasaunau Urupeo ni humatme iya America yan otu siha nasyon. Mamatkikilu i patgon Chamorro gi un' banda ni sige mabotlea na tai nina' siña man-gueloña.

rial is preserved "forever" and that it is made available to the broadest possible audience, including scholars, students and scientists near and far who might otherwise never be able to access it. In fact, as technology continues to improve, it could even allow near perfect copies to be made from the extensive data obtained from digital preservation.

Universities and colleges are among the oldest human institutions. As the custodians and conveyors of knowledge for more than 25 centuries, institutions like mine are centrally positioned to help lead this preservation effort. Today, digitization and accessibility over the internet of vast amounts of material is essential throughout our academy. These materials include books and journals, which our institutions are most known for preserving, but also photos, paintings, prints, sculptures, sound recordings, cultural objects, video, film and scientific data.

Many universities in the Midwest have been hard at work for several years ensuring that today's knowledge and scholarship will be available to generations far into the future and developing partnerships that will advance their efforts. To this end, in 2007, Indiana University joined with a number of other Midwest institutions and Google to digitize millions of our book holdings as part of the Google Book Search Project.

A year later saw the arrival of the HathiTrust, a collaboration of the universities of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (now the Big Ten Academic Alliance) and the University of California system to establish a repository to archive and share their digitized collections. The HathiTrust now has over 100 partners, including a number of Chicago-area universities, and 15 million fully digitized books in more than 400 languages, and it is one of the most important digital libraries in existence.

Furthermore, the HathiTrust Research Center, launched jointly in 2011 by Indiana University and the University of Illinois, along with the HathiTrust, is enabling scholars and researchers

American courage and determination of indestructible faith and unity of purpose."

And Phil Heisler saw it all. He was the first journalist to file a report noting that the Marines had finally gotten the upper hand at Iwo Jima.

If land values were measured in the blood of heroes, Iwo Jima would be "the costliest piece of real estate in the Pacific," Heisler wrote. The battle took the lives of nearly 7,000 American ser-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Hali'e gi un' banda un' dañkulun achu' Taga'. Ha tanchu' na si Taga' muna' fattu Tinian ayu na achu ginen Luta. Ha pega gi apagaña gi halum taduñg tasi estake hana' fattu Tinian.

Ilegña: "Sañgane manainan miyu ya uma-uma yan 'an 'in lañgag chile para iya hamyu". Ni unu chumanda fuetsan gue-lon Taga'.

Tane'

Gaige i radio gi un' banda pot infotmasyon yan dandan. Humuyun dispues anunsu gi finu' Chapanis.

Guaha mamaisen haf' ilelegña. Man-oppe unu, "Ti humalum i tiau yan atulai na biahe giya Oleai yan Garapan". Ai de dios i sensian pitbetserias.

Mafaisenyu' dispues 'nai ileghu na ti para u fanogcha' i lemai na sakan. (Chaleg). Lau dispues todū rumepara i silensiun tanu' gi taftaf oga'an yan lemlem tautau. Haf' signifikasioña este?

Ni guahu ti siña hu pega kalulothu lau na' chatsaga 'an ta has-sun ñaihon haf' mohon mamamaila'.

Bendision

Gi ma'pus na semana madispone un' amku' ni pumulan naffan lahiña sendalu pot 74 añus desde ke dimalas giya Iwo Jima. Ennau idat 101 'nai madispone i amku'. Tinayuyot para todū sakrifisiun lahiña pot para tapan libre kumu sudadanu. Tinayuyot yan mit gracias!

By MICHAEL MCROBBIE

Chicago Tribune

Michael A. McRobbie is president of Indiana University.



to fully utilize the contents of this digital library.

In 2013, Indiana University established a Media Digitization and Preservation Initiative, an ambitious project to digitize, preserve and make universally available by the university's 200th anniversary this year more than 300,000 of our most important time-based media objects.

The need to preserve artifacts that define our character, heritage and values is by no means a new phenomenon.

In a letter from 1791, Thomas Jefferson wrote about the importance of preservation.

He wrote: "... let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident."

We must now learn to do this in the digital era. How can we be certain that today's knowledge and scholarship, increasingly "born digital," will be available to future generations? What if the technology melts down? Or the digital version becomes unreadable? These are questions well suited to the ongoing preservation of knowledge work of universities.

Each disaster and loss reminds us that we must act with a sense of urgency. In the race to preserve our most timeless and priceless resources, time is not a luxury we have.

vicemen, and wounded 19,000 more. And over 21,000 thousand Japanese soldiers also perished.

The flag raising became the subject for many movies and books. And the two flags are well preserved and now displayed at the National Museum of The Marine Corps in northern Virginia.

Paul M. McCardell is the Baltimore Sun's librarian. His email is pmccardell@baltsun.com.

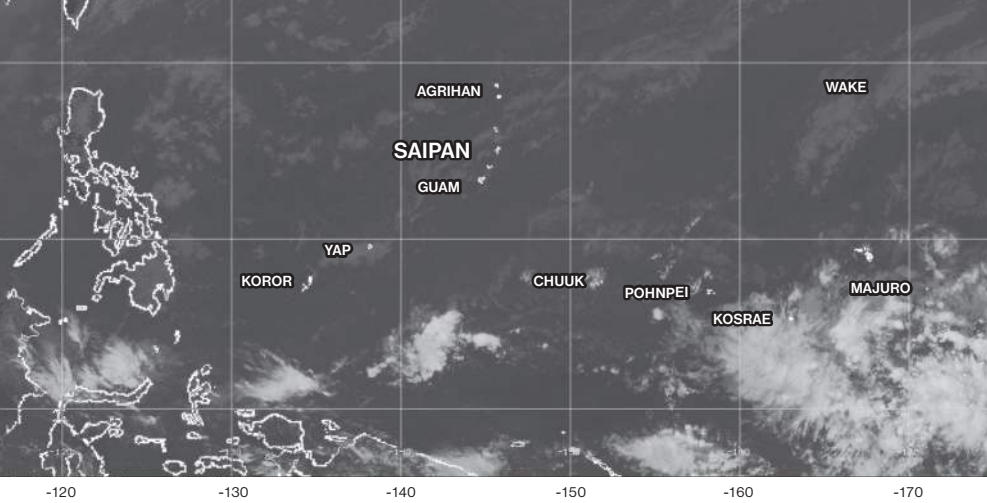
FLAGS

From Page 10

Shepherd Jr., Marine Corps commandant, said in presenting the memorial to the people of the country that it is not "just a monument to a departed past. It is a graphic message to the future. May it stand for the ages yet to come as a symbol of

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:52 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak shear line lies to the north of Saipan, over the northern CNMI with a weak shear line fragment over the Marianas. The fragment over the Islands brought a slight increase in showers to the region this morning along with mostly cloudy skies. The shear line to the north will continue to dissipate as it pushes south, maintaining mostly cloudy skies through early Wednesday morning over the islands, when a dry trade-wind pattern will return to the islands. Then only a slight chance of showers is expected until the weekend. Models indicate that a weak circulation will develop south of Kwajalein tonight and slowly drift toward the west-northwest. This circulation is expected to weaken into a trough by the weekend. As it approaches the Marianas, the islands will see an increase in cloud cover and showers Saturday through Monday. Though not expected at this time, an increase in mid-level moisture could bring needed showers to the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
Beijing	Cloudy	45° / 30°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 64°	
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 61°	
New York	Showers	48° / 41°	
Osaka	Showers	57° / 50°	
Paris	Mixed	45° / 37°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 43°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 46°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	59° / 33°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Showers	53° / 37°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:24 AM	LOW TIDE	0.04	
9:44 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65	
3:51 PM	LOW TIDE	0.65	
9:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:14 AM	8:28 PM	-
Thursday	8:50 AM	9:14 PM	-
Friday	9:25 AM	10:00 PM	-
Saturday	10:02 AM	10:48 PM	-
Sunday	10:40 AM	11:37 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Crackdown on immigrants who use public benefits takes effect

PHOENIX (AP)—Pastor Antonio Velasquez says that before the Trump administration announced a crackdown on immigrants using government social services, people lined up before sunrise outside a state office in a largely Latino Phoenix neighborhood to sign up for food stamps and Medicaid.

No more. “You had to arrive at 3 in the morning, and it might take you until the end of the day,” he said, pointing behind the office in the Maryvale neighborhood to show how long the lines got.

But no one lined up one recent weekday morning, and there were just a handful of people inside.

With new rules taking effect Monday that disqualify more people from green cards if they use government benefits, droves of immigrants, including citizens and legal residents, have dropped social services they or their children may be entitled to out of fear they will be kicked out of the U.S., said Velasquez and other advocates.

“This will bring more poverty, more homeless, more illness,” said Velasquez, a well-known leader among Spanish-speaking immigrants in the Phoenix area.

Advocates around the U.S. gathered Monday to discuss and criticize the policy.

Participants at a New York City roundtable said that in anticipation of the change, neighborhoods with higher immigrant populations had seen enrollment declines in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC. They also urged immigrants to get legal advice on how they may be affected.

In Boston, the Rev. Dieufort Fleurissant said some Haitian immigrants worry that accepting benefits could keep their relatives from coming to the U.S.

Bethany Li, of Greater Boston Legal Services, said Chinese families are passing on WIC benefits not covered by the new rules.

The guidelines that aim to determine whether immigrants seeking legal residency may become a government burden are part of the Trump administration’s broader effort to reduce immigration, particularly among poorer people.

The rules that critics say amount to a “wealth test” were set to take effect in October but were delayed by legal challenges alleging a violation of due process under the U.S. Constitution. The



In this Jan. 31, 2019, file photo, hundreds of people overflow onto the sidewalk in a line snaking around the block outside a U.S. immigration office with numerous courtrooms in San Francisco. AP

Supreme Court last month cleared the way for the Trump administration to move forward while the rules were litigated in the courts.

A 5-4 vote Friday by the high court sided with the Trump administration by lifting a last injunction covering just Illinois, giving White House adviser Stephen Miller and other hardliners a resounding win in one of their boldest attempts to limit legal immigration.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a blistering dissent, criticizing the administra-

tion for quickly turning to the Supreme Court after facing losses in lower courts and suggesting that her conservative colleagues handled the litigation inconsistently in their desire to give Trump a victory.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Saturday that the change will “reestablish the fundamental legal principle that newcomers to our society should be financially self-reliant and not dependent on the largess of United States taxpayers.”

Ken Cuccinelli, acting deputy Homeland Security secretary, said Monday on Fox News Channel’s “Fox & Friends” that the change is “not a moral judgment on individuals, it is an economic one.”

He said the government

expects “people seeking to be long-term immigrants here, and maybe join us as citizens, will be able to stand on their own two feet.” He said the rules were “a major priority for the president.”

Federal law already requires those seeking permanent residency or legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the U.S.—a “public charge,” in government lingo. But the new rules include a wider range of programs that could disqualify them, including using Medicaid, food stamps and housing vouchers.

The chilling effect spreading through immigrant communities recalls how millions of refugees dumped social services during the welfare changes of the 1990s, even

though the legislation that prompted the cuts explicitly exempted them.

Nazanin Ash, Washington-based vice president for global policy and advocacy for the nonprofit International Rescue Committee, pointed to research showing some 37 percent of refugees exempted from the Clinton-era changes in welfare benefits dropped food stamps they were entitled to.

Ash said the Trump administration rules would likely cause similar hardships for immigrants who contribute to the American economy.

“To call them a burden on society is factually incorrect,” she said.

The nonprofit Migration Policy Institute in Washington said in an August policy paper that it expects “a significant share” of the nearly 23 million noncitizens and U.S. citizens in immigrant families who use public benefits will drop them.

Julia Gelatt, a senior policy analyst with the institute, said the guidelines are so complicated that there have even been reports of parents dropping their kids’ free school lunches, which are not affected.

Amid China virus fears, even a haircut is a major operation

BEIJING (AP)—Need a trim in Beijing? You might have to wait.

Even getting a haircut has become a challenge in China now that most barbershops are temporarily shut to avoid public gatherings amid the virus outbreak.

Customers must maintain a distance of no less than 1.5 meters (5 feet) between chairs — that is, if they manage to make an appointment. Barbershops have to call customers who made reservations on the day of their appointment to ask if they have a cough or a fever, symptoms of pneumonia caused by the virus that causes COVID-19, according to information on the website of the Beijing Hairdressing and Beauty Association.

“Now we try to wash hair faster and cancel unnecessary services so as to cut down on the time with customers. We keep the door open every day. Once

the customers who made reservations arrive, we will disinfect their hands and shoe soles,” said Fu Jun, founder of JF Pro Salon. “These are the measures we take to ensure safety.”

Just 130 Beijing barber-shops were allowed to open by Monday, only a tiny fraction of the more than 20,000 that usually operate across Beijing, Fu said.

Of JF Pro Salon’s eight Beijing shops, four have been allowed to open since Feb. 16.

Fu said 40% of its employees are back to work. Others are in self-quarantine, required by the government of all who have returned from out of town. And some are unable to return at all because of the suspension of transport services from many places.

Monday is the second day of the second month of the Chinese lunar calendar, traditionally an auspicious time

when people rush into barber-shops to get new haircuts. Getting a fresh look on the day is thought to bring good luck for the year ahead.

In past years, more than 200 customers would flock to each of his shops on this special day, Fu said. But today only about 100 customers made reservations in the four shops that are open.

Fu said his business can basically make ends meet but things must be much harder for other barbershops.

One of JF Pro Salon’s customers on Monday was designer Ge Songyue, a regular of another of Fu’s shops who came from the other side of the city to get his hair cut on the auspicious day.

“I think we should trust each other and let life get back to normal. If we need to have our hair cut, let’s just do it,” Ge said.

Bahrain temporarily stops Dubai, Sharjah flights over virus

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The tiny island nation of Bahrain suspended flights to the world’s busiest airport for international travel in Dubai on Tuesday over fears about the spread of a new virus.

The move by Bahrain, a small island off the coast of Saudi Arabia, suggested its monarchy had doubts about screenings of incoming passengers in Dubai and nearby Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. It said the ban was immediate and would last at least 48 hours.

Bahrain counted its first case of the coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 illness on Monday in a school bus

driver who transited Dubai while coming from Iran.

Dubai International Airport did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Officials at Sharjah’s airport could not be immediately reached.

Dubai has been screening passengers on incoming flights from China, where the outbreak began. Long-haul carriers Emirates and Etihad are among the few international airlines still flying to Beijing. However, the outbreak in Iran only became public in recent days.

Iran’s government said Monday that 12 people had died nationwide from the new

coronavirus, rejecting claims of a much higher death toll of 50 by a lawmaker from the city of Qom that has been at the epicenter of the virus in the country. The conflicting reports raised questions about the Iranian government’s transparency concerning the scale of the outbreak.

Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and Oman also announced their first cases of the virus on Monday and connected them to travel with Iran.

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, has reported 13 cases of the new virus. Most of those were connected to Chinese travel.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

27,960.80

-1,031.61

3.56%

S&P

3,225.89

-111.86

3.35%

NASDAQ

9,221.28

-355.31

3.71%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.5121

British Pound

0.7728

Canadian Dollar

1.3287

Chinese Yuan

6.8914

Euro

0.9210

Hong Kong Dollar

7.7892

Indian Rupee

71.1860

Japanese Yen

110.7970

Malaysian Ringgit

4.1795

New Zealand Dollar

1.5778

Philippine Peso

49.9666

Russian Ruble

64.2375

Singapore Dollar

1.3974

South Korean Won

1189.00

Swiss Franc

0.9785

Taiwan Dollar

29.8830

Thailand Baht

31.6705

Nation

White House unveils \$2.5B emergency coronavirus plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Monday sent lawmakers an urgent \$2.5 billion plan to address the deadly coronavirus outbreak, whose rapid spread and threat to the global economy rocked financial markets.

The White House budget office said the funds are for vaccines, treatment and protective equipment. The request was immediately slammed by Democrats as insufficient and came as coronavirus fears were credited with Monday's 1,000-plus point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and are increasingly seen as a potential political threat to President Donald Trump.

The request was released Monday evening and came as key government accounts were running low. The Department of Health and Human Services had already tapped into an emergency infectious disease rapid response fund and was seeking to transfer more than \$130 million from other HHS accounts to combat the virus but is pressing for more.

"Today, the Administration is transmitting to Congress a \$2.5 billion supplemental funding plan to accelerate vaccine development, support preparedness and response activities and to procure much needed equipment and supplies," said White House budget office spokeswoman Rachel Semmel. "We are also



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., reacts after reading her fortune at the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory during a tour of Chinatown Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in San Francisco.

freeing up existing resources and allowing for greater flexibilities for response activities."

The administration is requesting \$1.25 billion in new funding and wants to transfer \$535 million more in funding from an Ebola preparedness account that's been a top priority of Democrats. It anticipates shifting money from other HHS accounts and other agencies to complete the \$2.5

billion response plan.

Senators returning to Washington after a weeklong recess will receive a classified briefing Tuesday morning on the government's coronavirus response, a Senate aide said. A spokeswoman for Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said the panel "will take their input into account as we continue to do our due diligence to deter-

mine what additional resources are necessary."

Democrats said the request is insufficient and said Trump's attempt to go after existing Ebola prevention

funding is dead on arrival.

"All of the warning lights are flashing bright red. We are staring down a potential pandemic and the administration has no plan," said Sen-

ate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who blasted a shortage of kits to test for the virus and President Donald Trump's proposed budget cuts to health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We have a crisis of coronavirus and President Trump has no plan, no urgency, no understanding of the facts or how to coordinate a response."

Trump was a vocal critic of President Barack Obama's response to the 2014 Ebola scare, which barely touched the U.S. but was seen as a factor in that year's midterm elections, which restored control of the Senate to Republicans.

Trump took to Twitter Monday to defend his record.

"The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA. We are in contact with everyone and all relevant countries. CDC & World Health have been working hard and very smart. Stock Market starting to look very good to me!" he tweeted.

Among the needs is funding to reimburse the Pentagon, which is housing evacuees from China—who are required to undergo 14-day quarantines—at several military bases in California.

Couple lost in woods survived on muddy water, fern fronds

INVERNESS, Calif. (AP)—A couple who went missing in the woods of Northern California for a week survived by drinking from a muddy puddle and eating fern fronds, said rescuers who had given up hopes of finding them alive.

Carol Kiparsky, 77, and Ian Irwin, 72, were found Saturday in a densely forested area near Tomales Bay, a narrow inlet about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of San Francisco, and were airlifted to a hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

The couple's rescue was the first of two dramatic rescues over the weekend. Crews on Sunday found a missing man in central California, four days after his car got stuck in heavy snow.

The Marin County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Sunday that the couple was not ready for interviews, but that they were in "amazing spirits and expressed gratitude to everyone."

When Quincy Webster, an 18-year-old volunteer with

the sheriff's search and rescue team, and dog handler Rich Cassens and his golden retriever Groot found the couple Saturday holding hands, they couldn't quite believe what they were seeing, the Marin Independent Journal reported.

"We looked at each other, we're like, we were not expecting this at all," Webster said.

"We started crashing through the brush as much as possible. We were yelling to them to hold on, we're coming," he said.

When Webster and Cassens reached the couple, weak and bloody, the husband had one question: "Are you real? Are you really real?"

Kiparsky and Irwin were last seen Feb. 14 at a vacation cottage near Inverness, a town at the foot of the bay. The couple from Palo Alto never checked out the next day as planned and failed to show up for an appointment on Feb. 16.

Webster and Cassens—who spent a half hour with the couple before they were

airlifted out—and Michael St. John, the unit leader of the volunteers, who spoke with the couple Saturday night at MarinHealth Medical Center, recounted what it took to bring the couple home.

On Valentine's Day the couple, who knew the area, went for a hike before returning home. But with the moon waning and the thick canopy of pines and oaks overhead, darkness fell early and the couple was quickly lost.

"They found themselves on their hands and knees, crawling, off the trail in the brush," and became mired in thickets of coyote brush, blackberry vines and poison oak, St. John said.

The brush on the wide peninsula of hilly terrain is so dense that it swallowed up a radio and GPS monitor that rescuers dropped in the ensuing days, sucked out the sound of the searchers' plaintive calls through loudspeakers at night, and absorbed any pleas for help that parabolic microphones were set up to capture.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man charged with killing 8 won't testify in his own trial

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. (AP)—A man charged with killing a deputy sheriff and seven other people in Mississippi in 2017 said Monday that he did not want to testify in his own trial where he could face the death penalty. "I choose not to," Willie Cory Godbolt told the judge when jurors were not in the courtroom. Godbolt told his defense attorneys later in the day that he had changed his mind and wanted to testify, but the judge would not allow it because that part of the trial had passed. Godbolt, 37, has pleaded not guilty to four counts of capital murder, four counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping and one count of armed robbery. Prosecutors wrapped up their case Monday after calling several witnesses over nine days. Defense attorneys called only two witnesses before completing their case. Closing arguments are set for Tuesday, and the case will then go to the jury. According to testimony earlier in the trial, Godbolt had gone to his in-laws' home on May 27, 2017, and argued with his estranged wife about their children.

Italian hikers rescued in Alaska after visiting infamous bus

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Italian man suffering from frostbite and four other tourists were rescued in the Alaska wilderness after visiting an abandoned bus that has become a lure for adventurers since it was featured in the "Into the Wild" book and movie. Alaska State Troopers say the five Italians were rescued Saturday from a camp they set up after visiting the dilapidated bus

on the Stampede Trail near the interior town of Healy. The hikers were found 13 miles from the trailhead, Trooper spokesman Tim DeSpain said. He didn't know how far they were from the bus. One of the hikers had frostbite to his feet and was transported to Fairbanks for treatment, DeSpain said. The hiker's injuries are not considered life-threatening. The other four hikers were picked up by friends in Healy. Rescuers were alerted by the hikers with a satellite-based emergency device that notified the International Emergency Response Coordination Center of a medical emergency, troopers said. That international group then notified rescuers, who reached the site by snowmobile, DeSpain said.

Arizona off-roading family, dog saved from raging flood

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona family and their dog narrowly avoided being swept away after their mini sports utility vehicle got stuck in rushing floodwaters. Dramatic video broadcast by media outlets from the Saturday night rescue shows the family of five holding onto the roll cage of the SUV in Sycamore Creek in the Tonto National Forest near Phoenix. Several people off-roading were stuck waiting for water levels in the creek in Tonto National Forest to come down. The family tried to cross the creek and then the SUV's "headlights disappeared and his vehicle was completely underwater," said Joe Osuch, who owns an off road vehicle recovery service. Osuch hooked a winch cable from his car and after several throws, the man driving the submerged vehicle caught the other end. He hooked it to the roll cage and Osuch pulled the vehicle with everyone on it out.

Asia

Race to form Malaysian govt heats up, eyes on Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—After months of resisting pressure to hand over the premiership to his named successor, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad finally quit this week. But in a confounding twist, the 94-year-old leader emerged stronger than before, while his ruling alliance, which won a historic vote about two years ago, met its Waterloo.

Malaysia's king accepted Mahathir's shocking resignation Monday. The move came in tandem with plans by Mahathir's supporters to team up with opposition parties to form a new government and foil the transition of power to his named successor, Anwar Ibrahim.

But Mahathir's Bersatu party ditched the alliance, depriving it of its majority rule after 37 lawmakers left and throwing the country into political distress.

With the political situation murky, leaders from both factions raced Tuesday to secure support for a new government.

Leaders of the United Malays National Organization, including disgraced former Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is on trial for corruption, will reportedly meet the king Tuesday afternoon. Local media reported that speculation was rife that UMNO can form a government in a new coalition with a fundamentalist Islamist party, Bersatu and two other parties on Borneo island.

Members of Bersatu made a beeline to Mahathir's house



Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad waves after granted an audience with the Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur, on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Tuesday morning after rejecting his resignation as party chairman. Mahathir has kept mum since the dizzying political debacle began over the weekend. Anwar and other alliance leaders said Monday that Mahathir was not the mastermind behind the conspiracy and that he had quit because he refused to work with UMNO, which he had worked so hard to oust in 2018 polls.

The focus now is on what Mahathir, the world's old-

est leader, will do next. He returned to work in his office Tuesday morning after the king dissolved the Cabinet and appointed him as interim leader until a new government is formed.

Mahathir has kept his cards close to his chest, but what's clear is that he has the support of all sides, which can pave the way for a comeback — on a clean slate. Both Anwar's alliance and the defectors trying to grab power support Maha-

thir as their leader.

"No question he has emerged as more in command than before. Every party has pledged to work with him," said Bridget Welsh, honorary research associate at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia. "This can be seen as strategy, but it is important not to forget that this whole debacle reflects poorly on him as leader and also does Malaysia no favors. My own view is that this may be a case of a strategy going wrong and

hijacked, which he is working to resolve."

This was Mahathir's second stint as prime minister. A master politician, he was known for his authoritarian rule during his 22 years in power, which ended in 2003 after a fallout with Anwar, who was his deputy at the time.

Mahathir made a political comeback amid anger over a massive graft scandal involving the 1MDB investment fund that sparked investigations around the globe. Ma-

hathir and Anwar buried their hatchet to form a political pact that ousted Najib's coalition, which had been in power since independence from Britain in 1957.

Anwar couldn't participate in the 2018 polls because he was behind bars for a sodomy conviction that he alleged was politically motivated. But he was freed and pardoned by the king after the alliance won power. Mahathir initially said he expected to stay as prime minister for two years to clean up the government, but he has refused consistently to set a firm timeline.

The weekend political drama broke out just after the alliance agreed Friday to give Mahathir the liberty to decide when he would step down.

"It's a tactical move to allow him maximum flexibility to form a new government," said James Chin, head of the Asia Institute at Australia's University of Tasmania. "He had to resign so that the entire government is no more. This allows him to set up a new coalition without any baggage from the old coalition. He will have a free hand to pick and choose."

Many Malaysians are outraged with Bersatu's move, calling it a betrayal of the mandate given by voters who wanted a change in 2018. The electoral watchdog group Bersih, which has organized large protests in the past, and other civil society organizations have called for fresh elections. Bersih warned it would call for a major rally if an undemocratic government is formed.

As concern grows, China, South Korea report more virus cases

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—China and South Korea on Tuesday reported more cases of a new viral illness that has been concentrated in North Asia but is causing global worry as clusters grow in the Middle East and Europe.

China reported 508 new cases and another 71 deaths, 68 of them in the central city of Wuhan, where the epidemic was first detected in December. The updates bring mainland China's totals to 77,658 cases and 2,663 deaths.

South Korea now has the second-most cases in the world with 893 and has had a near 15-fold increase in reported infections in a week, as health workers continue to find batches in the southeastern city of Daegu and nearby areas, where panic has brought towns to an eerie standstill.

Of the 60 new cases reported by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 49 came from Daegu

and the surrounding areas of North Gyeongsang province.

The country also reported its eight fatality, a man in his 60s who was linked to a hospital in Cheongdo, where a slew of infections has been reported among patients at a mental ward.

South Korea's cases now outnumber those reported by Japan, where the virus infected almost one-fifth of the passengers and crew on a cruise ship.

Clusters have also emerged in Iran and Italy, and there are concerns the new outbreaks could signal a serious new stage in the global spread of the illness.

Schools were closed in Iran for a second day, and daily sanitizing of public buses and the Tehran metro, which is used by some 3 million people, was begun.

In several countries that reported their first cases on Monday—Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman,

the infected patients had links with Iran. Iraq and Afghanistan closed their borders with Iran in an effort to stop the further spread.

In Italy, where 229 people have tested positive for the virus and seven have died, police manned checkpoints around a dozen quarantined northern towns as worries grew across the continent.

Austria temporarily halted rail traffic across its border with Italy. Slovenia and Croatia, popular getaways for Italians, were holding crisis meetings. Schools were closed, theater performances were canceled and even Carnival celebrations in Venice were called off.

It was a sign of how quickly circumstances could change. Italy had imposed more stringent measures than other European countries after the outbreak began, barring flights beginning Jan. 31 to and from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

China postpones key political meetings because of virus

BEIJING (AP)—China announced Monday it has postponed its most important political meetings of the year because of the outbreak of the new virus, a significant step for an authoritarian government that has always kept tight control over its political calendar.

The decision indicates the importance that President Xi Jinping places on the battle against the virus, which has killed more than 2,500 people and sickened more than 77,000 in mainland China.

The outbreak has posed one of the biggest political challenges to Xi's administration since he took control of the ruling Communist Party in 2012. The annual meetings of the National People's Congress and its chief advisory body usually begin about March 5 and run for more than two weeks, bringing thousands of delegates to Beijing

for discussions, speeches and political ceremony.

The official Xinhua New Agency earlier noted that one-third of the 3,000 delegates are provincial and municipal-level cadres with important leadership roles working on the front line of the battle against the epidemic.

Xi has been wounded by the virus outbreak, but can minimize the damage by "moving aggressively to contain the damage and regain control by postponing" the meetings, said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Because the National People's Congress has no real power, there is less reason to convene it when the party is restricting movement of people and banning large gatherings, he said. Postponing the meetings will "reduce the risk of anyone using either occa-

sion to speak out of line. Xi's move is an aggressive defensive act, and thus more pragmatic than desperate, though he must have felt a need to be defensive," Tsang said.

China has severely restricted travel and imposed strict quarantine measures to stop the virus from spreading.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, an assistant director-general of the World Health Organization, said in Beijing on Monday that China's actions had probably prevented tens of thousands and possibly hundreds of thousands of cases.

"There's no question that China's bold approach to the spread of this new respiratory pathogen has changed the course of what was a rapidly escalating and what continues to be a deadly epidemic," he said.

Aylward urged other countries to follow China's example.

World

Iran says 12 dead from new virus, rejects higher death toll

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's government said Monday that 12 people had died nationwide from the new coronavirus, rejecting claims of a much higher death toll by a lawmaker from the city of Qom that has been at the epicenter of the virus in the country.

The conflicting reports raised questions about the Iranian government's transparency concerning the scale of the outbreak.

Five neighboring countries reported their first cases of the virus, with those infected all having links to Iran, including direct travel from a city where authorities have not even reported a confirmed case.

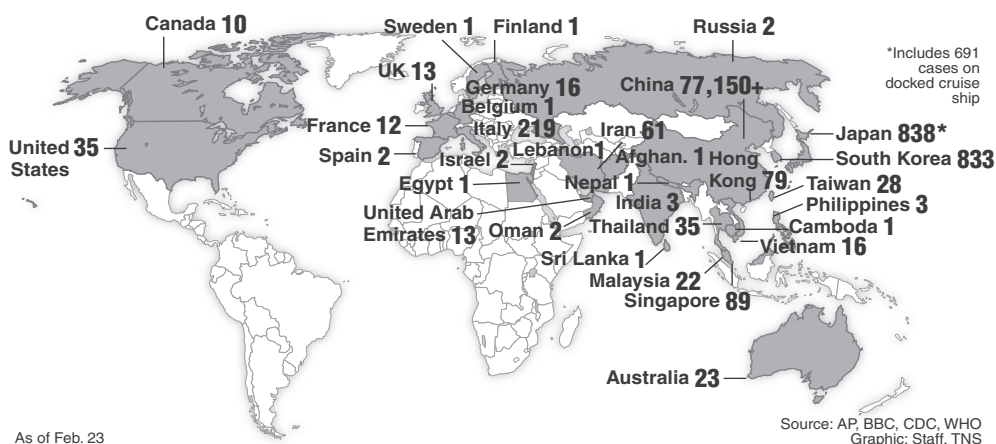
Iran's Health Ministry said the total number of infections have risen to 61 while deaths stood at 12. But a lawmaker from Qom, Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, was quoted by the semi-official ILNA news



People wear masks to help guard against the Coronavirus as they ride an escalator at a the metro station, in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Coronavirus cases topped 79,000

The new virus, COVID-19, emerged in China in December. Since then, more than 79,000 people have been infected globally, with at least 2,600 deaths being reported, mostly in China.



agency as saying that the death toll was 50.

Even with the lower toll of 12, the number of deaths compared to the number of confirmed infections from the virus is higher in Iran than in any other country, including China and South Korea, where the outbreak is far more widespread.

The World Health Organization said last week that in 2% of infected cases, the virus has been fatal. In Iran, according to the Health Ministry's figures, the death toll represents nearly 20% of total infections.

There are concerns that

clusters of the new coronavirus in Iran, as well as in Italy and South Korea, could signal a serious new stage in its global spread.

Authorities in Iraq and Afghanistan, which closed their borders with Iran, announced their first confirmed coronavirus cases on Monday. Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman also announced their first cases. In all five countries, the infected patients had links with Iran.

Farahani, the lawmaker, said the 50 deaths in Qom date back to Feb. 13. Iran first officially reported cases of the virus and its first deaths

on Feb. 19.

He did not provide supporting evidence but said more than 250 people are quarantined in Qom, which is known for its Shiite seminaries that attract students from across Iran and other countries. Schools there have been closed.

"I think the performance of the administration in controlling the virus has not been successful," Farahani said, referring to the government of President Hassan Rouhani. His comments represent the most public criticism levied yet against the government for its handling of the virus, which originated in China in December.

"None of the nurses have access to proper protective gear," Farahani said, adding that some health care specialists had left the city. "So far, I have not seen any particular action to confront corona by the administration."

He spoke following a session in parliament in Tehran. His comments, first published by ILNA, were later carried by other news agencies in Iran.

While such harsh criticism is rare in the country, it reflects deep public mistrust of the government, particularly since a Ukrainian passenger jet was shot down by Iran on Jan. 8, killing 176 on board amid heightened tensions with the U.S. Iranian government officials at first tried to conceal the cause of the crash before acknowledging that Revolutionary Guard forces had shot it down, mistaking it for an enemy target.

Israel strikes Gaza, Syria after Palestinian rockets attacks

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israel military said early Monday that it struck Palestinian militants targets in Gaza and Syria in response to rockets fired toward southern Israel on Sunday evening, hours after Israel said it killed a Palestinian militant who tried to place a bomb along the Israel-Gaza barrier fence.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group claimed responsibility for the rocket barrages. Palestinians were furious over the image of the man's lifeless body dangling off the front of an Israeli bulldozer that crossed into Gaza to retrieve it. There was also criticism in Gaza of the territory's Hamas rulers for not responding.

The Israeli military reported air raid sirens throughout southern Israel and said at least 20 rockets had been fired. There were no reports of damage or injuries on the Israeli side, but it was the heaviest barrage of rockets from the

Gaza Strip in several months. Air raid sirens continued into the evening, and Israel's Home Front Command ordered the suspension of classes in Israeli schools in southern Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip on Monday and prohibited large gatherings.

In response to the rocket fire, the Israeli military said aircraft struck "dozens of Islamic Jihad terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip" and a facility belonging to the militant group outside Damascus.

The Gaza health ministry reported that four Palestinians were treated at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City for wounds caused by the Israeli strikes.

Islamic Jihad said in a statement that the airstrikes on Damascus killed two of its members, identifying them as Salim Salim, 24, and Ziad Mansour, 23. It did not disclose their nationalities or elaborate on their roles. It vowed to respond to

the deaths of its members.

Israel and the Islamic Jihad group engaged in a heavy round of fighting last November after the Israeli military killed a top Islamic Jihad commander.

Since then, Israel and Gaza's more powerful Hamas group have been working through Egyptian mediators to cement an informal cease-fire. But Islamic Jihad has continued to try to carry out attacks.

Islamic Jihad said the man killed along the border was a militant. Israel said the man was planting explosives along the border fence. Amateur video on Palestinian social media showed an Israeli bulldozer crossing into Gaza and then lifting up his body.

Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman, accused the Israeli military of abusing the dead body, saying that it "bears the consequences of the ugly crime."

UN chief issues 7-point 'call to action' on human rights

GENEVA (AP)—The head of the United Nations issued a "call to action" on Monday to countries, businesses and all people to help renew and revive human rights across the globe, laying out a seven-point plan amid concerns about climate change, conflict and repression.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made the appeal at the start of the latest Human Rights Council session in Geneva, known as the council's "high-level segment" because it hosts a parade of dignitaries—including Libya's prime minister and foreign ministers from countries like Germany, Saudi Arabia and South Korea at the start of the four-week session.

"I have come to the Human Rights Council—the fulcrum for international dialogue and cooperation to advance all human rights—to launch a Call to Action," Guterres said, speak-

ing in broad terms and avoiding any reference to individual countries' rights records.

The U.N. chief said he wanted to speak out now because "human rights are under assault."

His seven-point plan involves linking human rights to issues like sustainable development, crisis prevention, gender equality, the development of the digital age, and freedom of expression and civil society, among other things.

"Success must be measured by the yardstick of meaningful change in people's lives," he said. "As a United Nations family, a culture of human rights must permeate all we do."

In a veiled allusion to China's Communist government, which has made economic and social development a key pillar of its approach to human rights, Guterres said: "It would be a mistake to dimin-

ish economic, social and cultural rights.

"But it would be equally misguided to think that those rights are sufficient to answer people's yearning for freedom," he said.

Guterres also spoke out against rising racism, white supremacy and extremism, and lamented violence against women and girls "as the world's most pervasive human rights abuse."

In an allusion to what are popularly known as "killer robots," he reiterated his stance that machines should never be given "lethal capacity outside human judgment or control."

"People across the world want to know we are on their side," Guterres said. "Whether robbed of their dignity by war, repression or poverty, or simply dreaming of a better future, they rely on their irreducible rights – and they look to us to help uphold them."

Focus

'Deportation with a layover:'

US sends migrants to Guatemala

By SONIA PÉREZ D. and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—After he was involved in a fender bender with a gang member, the Honduran delivery driver was in trouble: The accident wasn't his fault, but he couldn't pay the damages, and the other driver threatened to kill him.

Fearing for his life, the thin, curly-haired 25-year-old fled to the United States-Mexico border and requested asylum. After nine days in custody, he was put on a plane in McAllen, Texas, and sent to Guatemala. American authorities explained that he would wait there for an "initial screening," the first step in the U.S. asylum process, and eventually return to stand before a U.S. judge, he said.

But it wasn't true. The U.S. government sent him here to apply for Guatemalan asylum under a new Trump administration policy that puts migrants into this Central American country's bare bones asylum system with few resources and fewer options.

Hundreds of other Hondurans and Salvadorans have arrived in Guatemala since November. The delivery driver was among a small number who actually applied for asylum.

Most return to the countries they fled rather than wait for Guatemala to process them,

leading some to call the U.S. program "deportation with a layover." International law does not allow the U.S. to deport asylum seekers directly back to their home countries.

"They're basically removing the people from (the U.S.) with lies," said the driver, who asked not to be quoted by name because he feared reprisals.

The driver eventually gave up. In February, two months after he arrived in Guatemala and requested asylum, he abandoned the process and traveled to Mexico. He complained about the slow-moving bureaucracy and lack of opportunities to work in Guatemala. He said he would try to get a work permit in Mexico, save some money and maybe try again to enter the United States.

Asked about the driver's allegation that he was misled or lied to, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said the asylum program "does not work this way." Without more information to investigate the accusations, the agency said, it could not comment further.

From the program's start in November through last week, the U.S. government shipped 683 asylum-seekers to Guatemala. That is more than double the number of asylum-seekers processed by Guatemala in all of 2018. But

only 14, or about 2% of the foreigners actually pursued asylum here.

Washington has made similar agreements with Honduras and El Salvador, and the U.S. plans to begin transfers of asylum-seekers to those countries as well.

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador constitute Central America's so-called Northern Triangle countries that have been responsible for most of the migrants arriving at the United States' Southwest border in recent years.

The Asylum Cooperative Agreements deny a chance for asylum-seekers to even apply in the U.S. Authorities say the Guatemalan accord has been expanded from people arriving in El Paso, Texas, to the entire border. Immigration officials have not publicly disclosed any criteria by which Salvadorans and Hondurans are selected to fill the limited seats on the flights.

In its efforts to reduce the flow of migrants, the Trump administration sees asylum as an overused ploy by people trying to stay in the United States for other reasons and argues that if they really face dangers in their homelands, they should be reasonably safe elsewhere.

Last month, a coalition of groups led by the American Civil Liberties Union sued

the U.S. government over the agreements. They argue that Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador do not have the capacity to properly assess asylum cases and lack the resources to protect and support those who do seek asylum there.

When asylum-seekers land in Guatemala, they are processed by officials and asked if they want to stay in Guatemala or return to their home countries. They are given 72 hours to decide, and the government's support ends at the airport gates.

They usually go to a local migrant shelter to shower and consider their options. If they are interested in seeking asylum in Guatemala, they are channeled toward non-profit group that offers legal counseling.

Those who decide to go forward must request an appointment with Guatemalan asylum services, but it can take more than a year for a final decision. During that time, asylum-seekers are on their own.

Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International, this month interviewed some 20 people who had been sent to Guatemala.

About half of the people she spoke with had not known they were going to Guatemala when they were put on the plane in the U.S. Some thought they were being transferred to detention centers elsewhere in the United States. Only one of those she spoke with had decided

to seek asylum in Guatemala, Schacher said.

Some of them almost certainly qualified for asylum under U.S. law because they faced clear dangers at home, she contends.

One was a former Honduran police officer who said a gang had threatened to kill him because he was a witness in a criminal case. His wife and child were granted asylum in the U.S. on the basis of his case, but he was sent to Guatemala. Schacher said he seemed savvy and could likely advocate for himself.

Another was a 19-year-old from Honduras who was panicking because he knew no one in Guatemala, the rest of his family was in the U.S. and he was fleeing a gang that had raped his sister.

"This is the kind of kid who in 72 hours, without any medical counseling, without legal counseling, is not going to know what the hell to do," she said.

Many people aren't even staying 72 hours, Schacher said.

"That issue of will they be safe in Guatemala while they wait isn't really coming up, because nobody is waiting," she said. "The issue is are people just going back to their home countries without ever effectively being screened?"

Even with Guatemala's slim asylum record, it is far ahead of neighboring Honduras and El Salvador. In 2018, Honduras handled 57 asylum applications.

Andrés Celis, who rep-

resents the United Nations' refugee agency in Honduras, said the country could handle a moderate number of asylum-seekers. But with a large number, "there would be significant challenges for the Honduran government."

In El Salvador, immigrant advocate Cesar Ríos, director of the Salvadoran Migrant Institute, described the government unit that handles asylum cases as "one person with a desk."

"If we aren't prepared to take care of our people, how would it be for people who arrive" from elsewhere, Ríos said.

Earlier this month, El Salvadoran Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco essentially agreed. She said her country was not ready to receive asylum-seekers from the United States and will not accept them until it can offer them the necessary protections and support.

Government officials in Honduras and El Salvador did not respond to requests for interviews.

Now broke in southern Mexico, the Honduran driver who abandoned his asylum case in Guatemala, said he migrated again because as a refugee no one would give him work in that country. The organization that had helped him rent a room would pay for only two months, and he had no way to pay rent after that.

"If there's no work, you can't be waiting for asylum," he said.

AP

In this Feb. 11, 2020 photo, a Honduran delivery man who was sent from the United States, shows a bracelet, one of the many he makes to sell on the streets in Guatemala City. Two months after he arrived in Guatemala and requested asylum, he abandoned the process and traveled to Mexico. He complained about the slow-moving bureaucracy and lack of opportunities to work in Guatemala.

Good Housekeeping

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, is working to get homeowners back into their homes by helping them rebuild stronger and more resilient through FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction (PHC) Program.

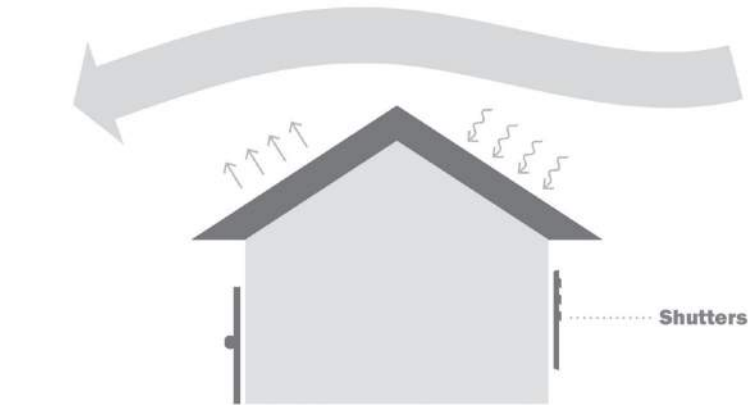
The CNMI is no stranger to Super Typhoons. One must take several measures, trimming tree limbs, stocking pantries, fueling generators, and boarding windows to minimize a typhoon's potential aftermath.

Aside from taking action to protect your home during a typhoon, such as duct taping and nailing plywood across your windows and doors, advances in technology and manufacturing have paved the way for a more effective and efficient approach to keeping your home safe during typhoons.

Your home's entry points, its windows and doors, are the most vulnerable during a typhoon and the key to keeping your roof intact and preventing total mayhem to your home. Protecting those entry points can drastically mitigate damages caused by typhoons, if doors and windows are manufactured and installed to code. Doors, windows, and storm shutters protect more than just your home, they also keep your family and personal property safe and dry.

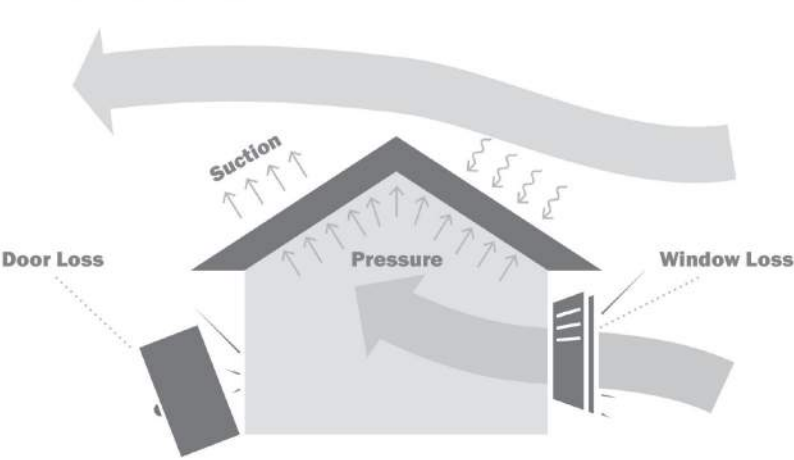
Once one window or door breaks, your roof becomes more likely to blow off due to the pressurized winds entering your home. This happens because a break in the door or

ENCLOSED



If you have any questions or concerns about FEMA's repair program, please call the **FEMA Joint Field Office at 670-236-2852** or email us at **FEMA-PHC-4404@fema.dhs.gov**

NOT ENCLOSED



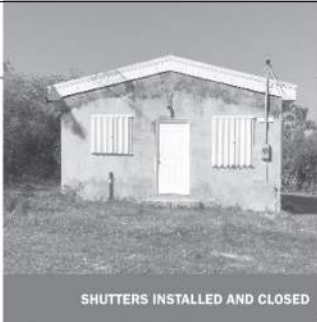
WINDOWS AND DOORS RATED FOR HIGH-SPEED WINDS



FEMA

Protecting doors and windows during a typhoon is crucial

Windows and doors are attractive and functional components of our homes. They allow natural light and fresh air to circulate through our dwellings and provide protection and privacy for our families and belongings. During a typhoon, however, windows and doors can be a weak link in the protection our homes offer if they are not manufactured and installed to meet code. Super Typhoon Yutu had **wind speeds near 195 MPH**. Winds of this magnitude may have a significant impact not only on the roofs on many homes in Saipan and Tinian Islands, but also may damage many exterior windows and doors. FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction (PHC)-Repair Program will repair or replace storm-damaged eligible houses with properly rated doors, shutters, and windows.



SHUTTERS INSTALLED AND CLOSED



CLOSED SHUTTERS



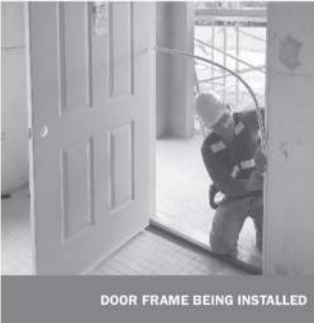
NEW WINDOW WITH SHUTTERS OPEN

Windows and doors are critical components of the building's envelope. The envelope is a physical barrier that separates the indoor and outdoor conditions. Windows and doors are highly susceptible to wind forces and flying debris, especially in coastal areas. When windows and doors fail, water and leaking are not the only issues. High winds can create internal pressures inside a building that can result in structural damage to roofs and walls in severe situations.

Sturdy exterior doors, windows, and shutters that are rated for high-speed winds are an effective way to mitigate damages caused by typhoons. As part of the PHC-Repair Program, eligible homes receive upgrades, such as stronger doors and storm shutters.



NEW SLIDING WINDOW



DOOR FRAME BEING INSTALLED



NEW EXTERIOR SIX-PANEL DOOR

window can cause a dramatic change in pressure inside the home. It's vital to use stronger glass and better hardware to prevent windows from shattering and doors from breaking or flying open. The idea behind storm shutters is to avoid that initial entry break by protecting those barriers from winds and debris minimizing the post typhoon damage.

FEMA's PHC Program is repairing and rebuilding homes that are in kind to codes and standards with mitigation included to ensure resiliency. PHC repaired roofs are evaluated and designed by an engineering firm to withstand 195 mph wind speeds and we're replacing eligible homes with properly rated doors, shutters,

and windows. So, if you're looking to make your home more typhoon-resistant, consider these mitigation measures when rebuilding, we are.

We want to encourage homeowners who are participating in the PHC program to stay in the program. Currently, we have a total of 321 homeowners participating in PHC Program, 190 for New Construction and 131 for Repair. Survivors who were initially eligible for PHC but opted out of the program can opt-in to the program later but would be required to return any FEMA disaster repair assistance money they have received in full as well as not have taken a Small Business Administration Loan disbursement for Real Property loss. **(PR)**

Life & Style

Harvey Weinstein convicted, led away in cuffs



AP
Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse for jury deliberations in his rape trial, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault against two women and led off to prison in handcuffs Monday in what his foes hailed as a landmark moment for the legal system and a long-overdue reckoning for the man vilified as the biggest monster of the #MeToo era.

The 67-year-old Weinstein had a look of resignation on his face as he heard the verdict: guilty on two charges, not guilty on a set of more serious ones.

While it was not the across-the-board victory prosecutors and his accusers had hoped for, it could put the stooped and feeble-looking Weinstein behind bars for the rest of his life. The charges carry up to 29 years in prison.

District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. saluted the women who came forward against the once-feared studio boss, saying they “changed the course of history in the fight against sexual violence” and “pulled our justice system into the 21st century.”

“This is the new landscape for survivors of sexual assault in America, I believe, and it is a new day. It is a new day because Harvey Weinstein has finally been held accountable for crimes he committed,” Vance said.

Weinstein’s lawyers said

they will appeal.

“Harvey is unbelievably strong. He took it like a man,” defense attorney Donna Rotunno said. “He knows that we will continue to fight for him, and we know that this is not over.” Another of his law-

yers, Arthur Aidala, quoted Weinstein as telling as his legal team: “I’m innocent. I’m innocent. I’m innocent. How could this happen in America?”

The jury of seven men and five women took five days to find Weinstein guilty of raping

an aspiring actress in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulting production assistant Mimi Hiley at his apartment in 2006 by forcibly performing oral sex on her.

He was acquitted on the most serious charges, two

counts of predatory sexual assault, each carrying up to life in prison. Both of those counts hinged on the testimony of “Sopranos” actress Annabella Sciorra, who said Weinstein barged into her apartment, raped her and forcibly performed oral sex on her in the mid-1990s.

Judge James Burke ordered Weinstein taken to jail immediately. Court officers handcuffed Weinstein and put their arms under his, leading him unsteadily out of the courtroom via a side door without the use of the walker he relied on for much of the trial. He was later taken from the courthouse in an ambulance, strapped to a stretcher in his suit, and taken to a locked unit at Bellevue Hospital.

The judge said he would ask that Weinstein, who had been free on bail since his arrest nearly two years ago, be held in the infirmary at the city’s Rikers Island jail complex after his lawyers said he needs medical attention following unsuccessful back surgery.

Rotunno said in an appearance on Fox News that Weinstein was initially headed to the jail, but was diverted to Bellevue to be checked out for heart palpitations and high blood pressure. “He’s O.K.,” she added.

Sentencing was set for March 11. The sexual assault charge carries up to 25 years in prison, while the third-degree rape count is punishable by up to four years. (The jury acquit-

ted Weinstein of first-degree rape, which requires the use of force or the threat of it, and found him guilty of third-degree rape, which involves a lack of consent.)

The verdict followed weeks of often harrowing and excruciatingly graphic testimony from a string of accusers who told of rapes, forced oral sex, groping, masturbation, lewd propositions and excuses from Weinstein about how the Hollywood casting couch works. In addition to the three women he was charged with attacking, three more who said they were assaulted by Weinstein testified in an effort by prosecutors to show a pattern of brutish behavior.

Whispers about Weinstein circulated in Hollywood for years before they finally turned into a torrent of accusations in 2017 that destroyed his career and gave rise to #MeToo, the global movement to encourage women to come forward and hold powerful men accountable for their sexual misconduct.

The trial was the first criminal case to arise from the barrage of allegations against Weinstein from more than 90 women, including actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek, Ashley Judd, Uma Thurman and Mira Sorvino. Most of those cases were too old to prosecute.

While prosecutors and other Weinstein foes were disappointed by his acquittal on the most serious charges, they exulted over the guilty verdicts.

‘The sky is blue again’: Weinstein’s accusers express relief

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Mira Sorvino broke down in tears as she described her reaction to the guilty verdict against Harvey Weinstein: relief, that the fallen movie mogul would not go unpunished. A tinge of disappointment, that he was acquitted of the most serious charges, two counts of predatory sexual assault. But most of all gratitude, to the six accusers who were brave enough to testify—and the jurors who believed them.

“Harvey Weinstein has haunted many of our lives, even our nightmares, long after he initially did what he did to each one of us,” Sorvino said shortly after Monday’s verdict, in an emotional phone call with reporters and fellow accusers. “We’ve finally taken that power back, we have exposed his evil,” she said, her voice breaking.

“He will rot in jail as he deserves, and we will begin to have some closure,” she said.

For accuser Zoe Brock, the relief was palpable: She’d “expected the worst,” she said from New Zealand, “because for sexual assault victims, the worst keeps happening.” Brock said she’d feared Weinstein would not only be totally acquitted, but that he’d “make a comeback and he’d go to the Oscars and win again.”

“But that’s not gonna happen,” Brock said, “because now Harvey Weinstein is a convicted rapist, and right now he’s sitting in ... jail, and I’m so happy about it.”

In what was unquestionably a landmark moment for the #MeToo movement, Weinstein was convicted of raping an aspiring actress in 2013 and sexually assaulting another woman in 2006, but found not guilty of predatory sexual assault, a charge that could have resulted in a life sentence. The most damaging conviction carries a maximum sentence of 25 years. Weinstein’s attor-



AP
In this Jan. 6, 2020, file photo, Actor Rose McGowan, right, speaks at a news conference as actor Rosanna Arquette, center left, listens outside a Manhattan courthouse after the arrival of Harvey Weinstein in New York.

neys vowed to appeal; he has maintained that any sex was consensual.

For most of the accusers, the most powerful image—captured in courtroom sketches—was of the once all-powerful producer being led away in handcuffs.

“For once he won’t be sitting comfortably,” said actress Rose McGowan, one

of Weinstein’s earliest accusers. “For once, he will know what’s its like to have power wrapped around his neck.” McGowan called the verdict “a huge step forward in collective healing.”

“Every one of us who’s come forward, we have a name, we have a history, we have a life,” McGowan said. “We are more than Weinstein.

But today because of the brave women who bared their deepest hurts for the world to see, he’s on Rikers Island.”

While Weinstein had been expected to go to the jail at Rikers Island, he was being held Monday evening in a locked unit at Bellevue hospital. He recently had back surgery, and his lawyers have said he needs medical attention.

A number of accusers said the day’s biggest triumph was that women were finally being believed in their claims of sexual assault.

“I have a renewed sense of faith that women will be believed when they come forward,” said Caitlin Dulany. “We were really hoping to change the world with this, and today is a good indication that we are on that road.”

“It’s like the sky is blue again,” she said.

Many spoke of the need to shore up laws governing sex crimes. Among them was actress Rosanna Arquette.



Actor Jussie Smollett pleads not guilty to restored charges

CHICAGO (AP)—Former “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett pleaded not guilty Monday to restored charges that accuse him of staging a racist, homophobic attack against himself last year in Chicago and falsely reporting to police that the phony attack was real.

His lawyer, Tina Glandian, entered the not guilty pleas on his behalf to six counts of felony disorderly conduct. She also told Judge James B. Linn that she has asked the Illinois Supreme Court to halt the case.

A somber looking Smollett,

37, entered the Cook County courthouse wearing sunglasses and sporting a beard, flanked by his legal team and surrounded by reporters.

“He’s obviously frustrated to be dragged through this process again,” Glandian told reporters after the hearing.

She called the revived pros-

ecution “an ordeal” for Smollett and said he has the support of relatives, some of whom flew out from California to be with him.

“He’s strong, he’s resilient, he’ll get through this, but he’s frustrated,” she added.

Smollett pleaded not guilty to 16 counts of the charge in the

same courthouse last year, just weeks before the Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx’s office abruptly announced it was dismissing the case, angering police and City Hall.

Smollett’s attorneys also have filed a motion in Cook County court arguing that the refiling of charges vio-

lated protections against being charged twice for the same crime, known as double jeopardy. Prosecutors have said double jeopardy does not apply because Smollett was not prosecuted last year.

Linn on Monday set a \$20,000 personal recognizance bond, which means Smollett does not have to pay any of it. He was not taken into custody. His next court date is March 18.

Special Prosecutor Dan Webb, a former U.S. attorney who was appointed to examine the state’s attorney’s office’s handling of the case, represented the state. Foxx’s office is not involved in the new case against Smollett.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that the defense motion filed with Illinois’ high court argues that the appointment of the special prosecutor was legally flawed.

Smollett has repeatedly denied police allegations that he staged the attack to get attention and further his career.

Smollett, who is black and gay, told police that two masked men attacked him as he was walking home in the early hours of Jan. 29, 2019.

He said they made racist and homophobic insults, beat him and looped a noose around his neck before fleeing, and that at least one of his attackers was a white man who told him he was in “MAGA country,” a reference to President Donald Trump’s campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again.”

Weeks later, police alleged that Smollett had paid two black friends to help stage the attack because he was unhappy with his salary as an actor on “Empire,” a Fox series filmed in Chicago that follows a black family as they navigate the ups and downs of the recording industry.

The friends, brothers Abimbola “Abel” Osundairo and Olabinjo “Ola” Osundairo, were among those who attended Monday’s proceedings. If Smollett’s case makes it to trial, they would be the state’s star witnesses. The brothers are bodybuilders and aspiring actors whom Smollett knew from the “Empire” set and the gym.

Their attorney, Gloria Schmidt Rodriguez, told reporters after the hearing that the brothers were there to “support the process.”

“They are here because they want the truth to be told. ... The brothers are sorry for their involvement and ... they’re going to do everything they can to make this right,” she said.

Glandian, Smollett’s lawyer, said she was “surprised” the brothers showed up.

“There was no reason for them to appear in court,” she said.

Rio Carnival schools make plea for end of religious abuse

By DAVID BILLER and
MARCELO DE SOUSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—As the Grande Rio Samba school rolled its Carnival float onto Rio de Janeiro’s parade grounds, people aboard unfurled a massive fan-shaped banner reading “RESPECT MY AXÉ” to the roaring crowd.

Axé is the vital cosmic force in the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé and Grande Rio was calling upon tens of thousands of spectators in the Sambadrome’s bleachers and tens of millions watching at home to accept people of Afro-Brazilian faith amid a wave of harassment linked to the spread of evangelical Christianity here.

As Portuguese Catholic colonists brought African slaves to Brazil, the enslaved men and women developed syncretic blends of their traditional religions with Catholicism, now practiced by about a tiny minority of Brazilians.

In Rio, the state that’s home one quarter of the practitioners of Afro-Brazilian religions,

there’s been a proliferation of evangelical Christianity, particularly neo-Pentecostal churches founded since 1970 that focus on spreading their faith among non-believers. Experts say that while most neo-Pentecostal proselytizing is peaceful, the spread of the faith has been accompanied a surge of intolerance against traditional African-influenced religions ranging from verbal abuse and discrimination to destruction of temples and forced expulsion from neighborhoods.

Members of the Grande Rio school, like Jaciel Henrique, said they were using Rio’s traditional Samba school competition to tell the world to know that traditional African-influenced religions like Candomblé need respect and protection.

“We want to be respected, and Carnival is about that,” Henrique said at the school’s rehearsal earlier this month in Duque de Caxias, a city north of Rio. “Respect where everybody unites and gets together in favor of one power: happiness.”

Duque de Caxias is part of the sprawling Baixada Fluminense region, where Rio on



Feb. 17 inaugurated a center for victims of religious intolerance to file claims and get legal, social, psychological support. Within four days, a teenage boy of Candomblé faith reported that school directors had prohibited him from attending class in his traditional white garb.

Afro-Brazilian religions are directly tied to the creation of Rio’s samba schools, and Carnival samba lyrics citing

Candomblé deities, or orixas, have been a constant since the 1960s, said Luiz Antônio Simas, a prominent Carnival historian. Grande Rio’s theme is the first to focus on the issue of religious intolerance, he said.

Its parade this year presented the story of Joãozinho da Gomeia, a Candomblé priest from northeastern Brazil’s Bahia state who moved in 1947 to Duque de Caxias. He was jailed for practicing folk heal-

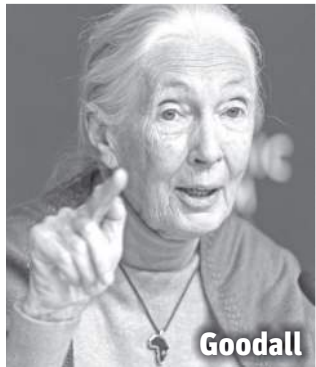
ing. Most of the school’s parade presented his story, and their song repeated one verse that inevitably prompted the crowd to join in singing: “I respect your Amen/you respect my Axé.”

Another samba school, Mangueira, also highlighted religious intolerance at times during its parade on Sunday. One group of women with a Candomblé orixa’s name emblazoned on their

skirts whirled about with a cross on their backs. A lyric in Mangueira’s samba said “prophets of intolerance” were again putting nails through Jesus’ body, and the school was joined by an inter-faith group of 20 religious leaders holding a banner that read “Independent of your faith, respect should prevail.”

Brazil’s most recent census found some 600,000 practitioners of Afro-Brazilian faiths—just 0.3% of the population. The religions are often demonized in neo-Pentecostal churches, said Márcio de Jagun, the state government’s superintendent for promoting religious freedom. Some of the faithful take matters into their own hands and, in rare instances, evangelical pastors have been found explicitly directing radicalized evangelicals to dispense violence.

Jane Goodall's 'The Book of Hope' coming out in 2021



NEW YORK (AP)—Jane Goodall's next book will be a tribute to her enduring optimism.

Celadon Books announced Monday that Goodall's "The Book of Hope" will be published in fall 2021. The project is a collaboration with Doug Abrams, author of the best-selling "The Book of Joy," and comes 60 years after the celebrated primatologist began her pioneering research of chimpanzees in Africa.

"The Book of Hope" will serve as an extraordinary exploration of our very nature as human beings and offer a compelling path forward to create hope in our own lives and in the world," according to Celadon's announcement. "Through both Jane's observation and the latest scientific research, readers will experience the resilience of nature to recover from the harm we have inflicted and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of loss and devastation."

Goodall's previous books include "My Friends the Chimpanzees," "In the Shadow of Man" and "The Ten Trusts: What We Must Do To Care for the Animals We Love."

Paramount halts 'Mission: Impossible' shoot over new virus

NEW YORK (AP)—Paramount Pictures on Monday halted production on the seventh "Mission: Impossible" film due to the new virus, as Hollywood began to more drastically adapt to the growing global outbreak.

"Mission: Impossible 7" had been scheduled to shoot for three weeks in Venice. More than 200 people have tested positive for coronavirus in Italy, the largest number outside Asia. While most of those cases are in the neighboring Lombardy region, authorities said three people in Venice have tested positive for the virus.

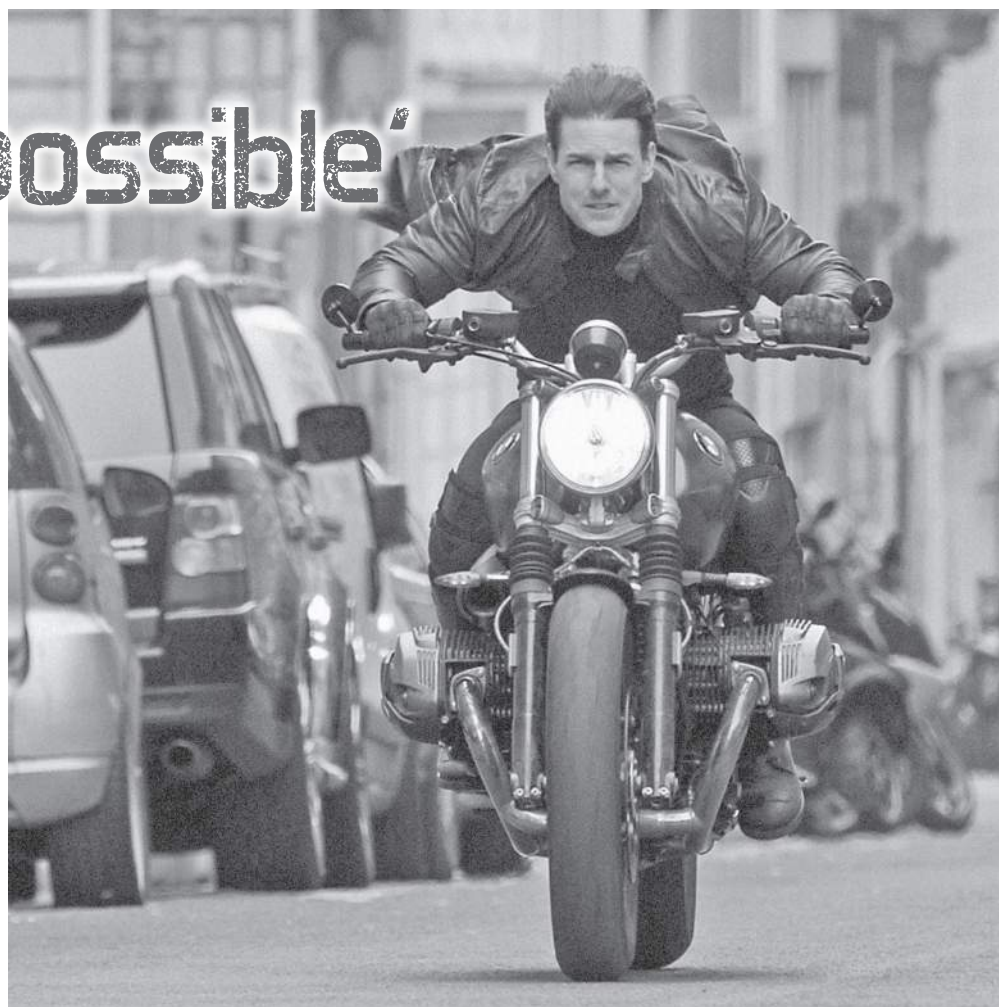
In a statement, Paramount cited the Venetian government's halting of public gatherings, and said it was canceling the shoot "out of an abundance of caution for the

safety and well-being of our cast and crew."

Paramount also on Monday postponed the Chinese release of "Sonic the Hedgehog," which had been set for Friday. Cinemas in China have been shuttered due to the outbreak, closing down the world's second largest box-office market.

At stake is potentially hundreds of millions in ticket sales in China and elsewhere. Media stocks were among those that tumbled Monday on Wall Street as fears increased of the virus' effect on the global economy.

Last week, the James Bond film "No Time to Die" canceled its planned Beijing premiere and promotional tour. The film is to open in Britain on April 2 and in North America on April 10.



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Tom Cruise in a scene from "Mission: Impossible - Fallout," the sixth film in the Mission Impossible franchise. AP

Auschwitz Museum upset at scene in Amazon series 'Hunters'

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The museum of the Nazi German Auschwitz death camp is objecting to a scene in a new Amazon TV series that shows a murderous game of human chess being played there, insisting that no such thing took place at the camp.

The museum and memorial that guard the Auschwitz-Birkenau site in southern Poland, its historic facts and the memory of the victims tweeted about the scene in Amazon's series "Hunters."

It said inventing fake scenes is "dangerous foolishness and caricature," encourages Holocaust deniers and is disrespectful of the camp's some 1.1 million victims, including women and children.

The series' creator, David Weil stressed in a statement it was not a documentary but a narrative with largely fictional characters. As a grandson of Holocaust survivors, Weil said he was careful not to "misrepresent a real person or borrow from

a specific moment in an actual person's life."

Most of the victims were Jews, but there were also Poles, Roma, Russian prisoners of war and others. They died in the camp's gas chambers or from starvation, disease and forced labor, or shot by the guards.

Museum spokesman Pawel Sawicki said Monday that authors and artists have a special obligation to tell the truth about Auschwitz, and that the "Hunters" authors

did not contact the museum for facts.

"If anyone wants to show human tragedy in Auschwitz it is enough to reach for the thousands of sources (survivors' testimonies) that are deeply shocking, but creating fiction that distorts the history of this real place is disrespectful of the people who suffered here," Sawicki told The Associated Press.

He said the museum is always willing to provide factual advice to anyone study-

ing or working on Auschwitz history. More than 2 million people a year visit the site with its historic barracks, the ruins of the gas chambers and a monument to the victims.

"Hunters" is about a post-war hunt in New York for Nazi war criminals. It includes a scene where Auschwitz inmates are figures in a chess game and are killed when they are taken off the chessboard.

"This is false. There was no such thing," Sawicki said.

Husband is unsettled by his attraction to another man

DEAR ABBY: I am a 57-year-old married man. I share a house with my wife and daughter. After dinner last month, my wife and I had a big fight. I can't believe the things we said. In 30 years, it has never gone that far.

I left the house and went to a bar. A slightly older man sat down next to me, and we talked for a long time, about the Beatles, hockey, science, evolution and the universe. Conversation just flowed.

I decided to tell him about the fight with my wife. He told me he lived in the building and had a vintage vinyl collection. If I wanted, we could go up and listen to some records. I said yes. We had a few drinks, listened to some great music and talked some more. He was so smart and so cool.

Then I caught myself looking at him with more than just admiration for his intellect, if you know what I mean. It scared me. I didn't know what to do, so I apologized and excused myself, hastily and rudely, I'm sure.

I don't know if he had any intentions other than listening to old records. He didn't say, and I didn't stick around long enough to find out. But I remember that feeling. All day long I remember it.

My wife and I have made up. We both regret the fight. But, Abby, I think about him every day. I've considered going back and knocking on his door, but I can't. I never imagined I'd feel this way at my age. What can I do?

TWISTED UP IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TWISTED UP: I'll be frank. Sexuality is not nec-

essarily black and white; there are shades of gray. You met this person at a time when you were emotionally vulnerable. The best thing you can do for your marriage would be to talk about this with a licensed mental health professional. The most destructive thing you could do for your marriage would be to knock on that person's door at this time.

DEAR ABBY: My father has always been very careful with money, paying credit cards in full and living within his means. He recently retired with his house paid off and enough savings to maintain a middle-class life for him and my stepmother.

Last month, my sister confided to me that my stepmother, "Lynda," has racked up \$100,000 in credit card debt, mostly from online shopping. She hasn't worked for many years due to health reasons, so she has no way to pay the bills on her own. Everyone in the family knows about this and is hiding it from my father.

I feel Dad has a right to know, as interest charges over time will only make the situation worse. If he finds out sooner rather than later, he will be in a better position to pay the debt. If necessary, he could return to work, at least part time.

However, I'm afraid that both my and my father's relationship with my stepmother will be jeopardized if I tell him the truth. He has a history of not being able to control his temper. While it caused marital problems in the past, he currently has a loving relationship with Lynda.

They recently returned from a cruise, and all I could think about was whether they should have been spending money on

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

a vacation. I'm afraid they could eventually lose their house and the means to support themselves if I don't speak up. What should I do?

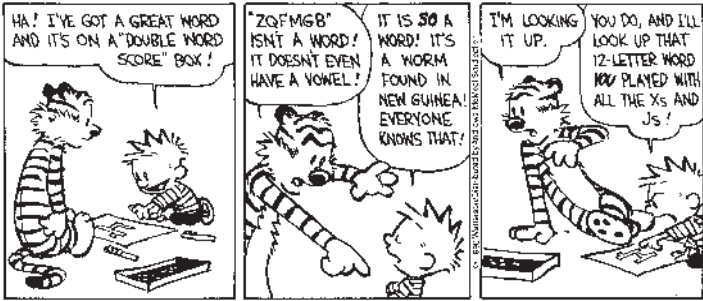
NERVOUS IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR NERVOUS: Rather than aid and abet your father's wife by hiding her (shopping) addiction, your family should have informed your father before the debt reached such large proportions. What you should do is speak up! Let him know you are worried because it doesn't take a crystal ball to see there is serious trouble on the horizon that will only grow worse if something isn't done immediately.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

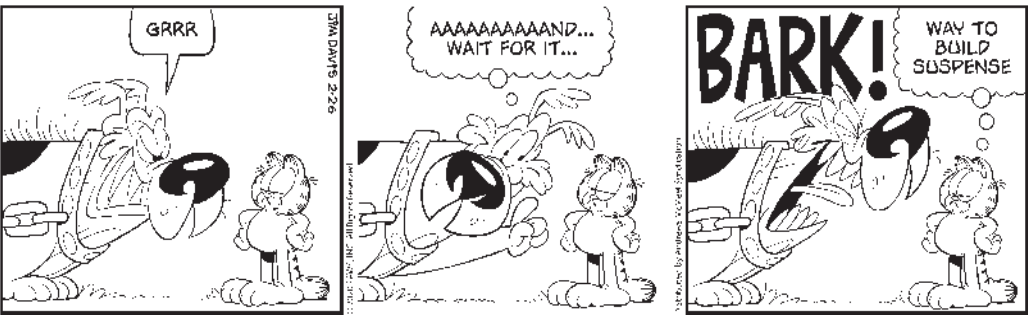
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



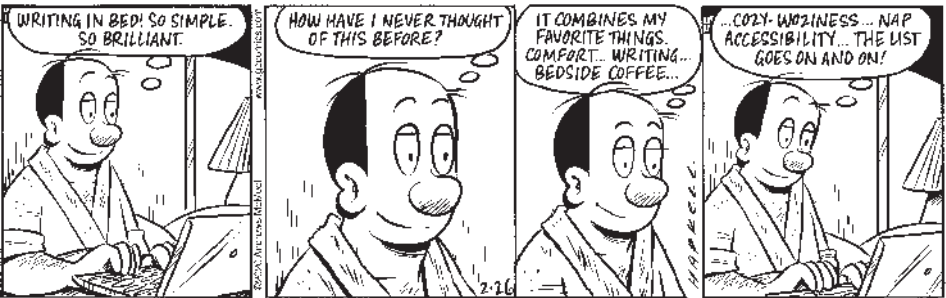
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

26 Section

1 Actress Tyler

4 "Today" rival, briefly

7 Achy

8 Maine college town

10 Old Testament book

11 Speakers' platforms

13 Garden trimmers

16 That fellow's

17 Stop

18 Overly

19 Arkin of "Argo"

20 Gestation location

21 Justice Ruth — Ginsburg

23 Puccini work

25 Top choice, for short

DOWN

1 Venue

2 Persia, today

3 Jam

4 Icky

5 Dayan of Israel

6 Pot

7 Voice

8 Church

9 Speaker

10 Speed-

11 Extra

12 Dry

13 Debonair

14 Lariat

15 JFK's

16 Twisty letter

17 Predecessor

18 Twisty letter

19 Stat

20 Drench

21 Iraqi port city

22 Sidesteps

23 Rowboat

24 Get ready

25 Little lie

26 Check recipient

28 Golf great Sam

29 Audacity

30 Complains

31 New York canal

32 Leary's drug

34 Dull sound of impact

35 Cupid's alias

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Corinne Bailey Rae, 41; Erykah Badu, 49; Mark Dacascos, 56; Michael Bolton, 67.

Happy Birthday: It's time to run the show instead of taking orders. Size up whatever is going on around you, and let your instincts take over. Pursue a constructive year filled with hard work and big rewards if you are quick to act and willing to take on responsibilities that will challenge and test your strength, courage and stamina. Your numbers are 10, 23, 27, 31, 33, 42, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay focused on your objective. Refuse to let anyone upset you. Make your position clear without using force. Choose kindness and intelligence to outmaneuver anyone disruptive. A romantic gesture is in your best interest when dealing with someone you love. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel you have to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Do the things that make you happy, and stick to the people who bring out the best in you. Do whatever brings the highest returns financially, emotionally and intellectually. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Develop your ideas, and strive for efficiency. Take notes, pay attention to detail and make precision part of everything you pursue. The research will help you create the perfect scenario to present and promote what you want to do. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do whatever you can to improve your situation. Don't put up with conditions that make

you unhappy. Stop being a victim, and take advantage of your skills, intelligence and intuitive insight to follow your heart and achieve your dreams. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a chance, try something unique and see what transpires. Meeting new people and feeling out situations that interest you will help you make a decision that will improve your life. Nothing is out of reach. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change can be useful, but only if you have laid down a solid foundation. Put everything in place, and proceed with confidence. Don't leave important details to anyone else. Own it, control it and make it happen. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your creativity is on the rise. Use what you have to bring about the changes you want to happen. How you perceive situations will determine who you trust. Leave nothing to chance; do your homework before taking a risk. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A clear vision of what you want will be necessary if you want to avoid danger. Don't act out of frustration. Take action when you are in control, and have the confidence and know-how to finish what you start. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Attempts to do things that aren't feasible will leave you in a precarious position. Don't let anyone mislead you. Focus on what's within your means, and do the best job ever. That's what will lead to success. Romance is featured. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Trouble will surface if you let your emotions get the better of you. Know that you cannot please everyone, and follow the path that will bring you the highest satisfaction. Protect against insult, injury and emotional heartbreak. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a personal change that will lift your spirits and boost your confidence. Refuse to let negativity set in or allow people who bring you down to be part of your day. Make decisions that promote peace, love and happiness. Romance is favored. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Handle emotional issues with care. Don't share your thoughts and feelings until you have figured out the best way to handle a sensitive situation. Someone will disappoint you if you are too trusting. An unexpected change will end up being beneficial. ***

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, sensitive and imaginative. You are passionate and trustworthy.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7	5		1				
2			4	8				
			9	3				
			3	7		2		
		8		4		9		
	1			2	3	6	8	
9						4		
5						1		
1	3	6	2			5		

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	2	7	6	8	1	4	3
6	3	7	4	2	1	9	5	8
1	4	8	9	3	5	2	7	6
8	6	3	1	4	9	5	2	7
5	9	1	8	7	2	6	3	4
2	7	4	3	5	6	8	1	9
4	8	6	5	1	7	3	9	2
7	2	5	6	9	3	4	8	1
3	1	9	2	8	4	7	6	5

Not Truly Level ★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at **235-6397**

FOR RENT

3 bedroom residential for Rent, Located in Dandan in a Private area Newly Built Structure with most major appliances included \$950 a month- 2 weeks FREE if 1 year lease signed by March 1, 2020. Call- (670) 783-1015

WHATZIT Solution: Watercolors

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS



WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MAHOGANY
CHOCOLATE
AQUAMARINE

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

WHATZIT? © 2020 www.whatzit.com
Illustration by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Jordan's poignant Kobe tribute: 'A piece of me died'



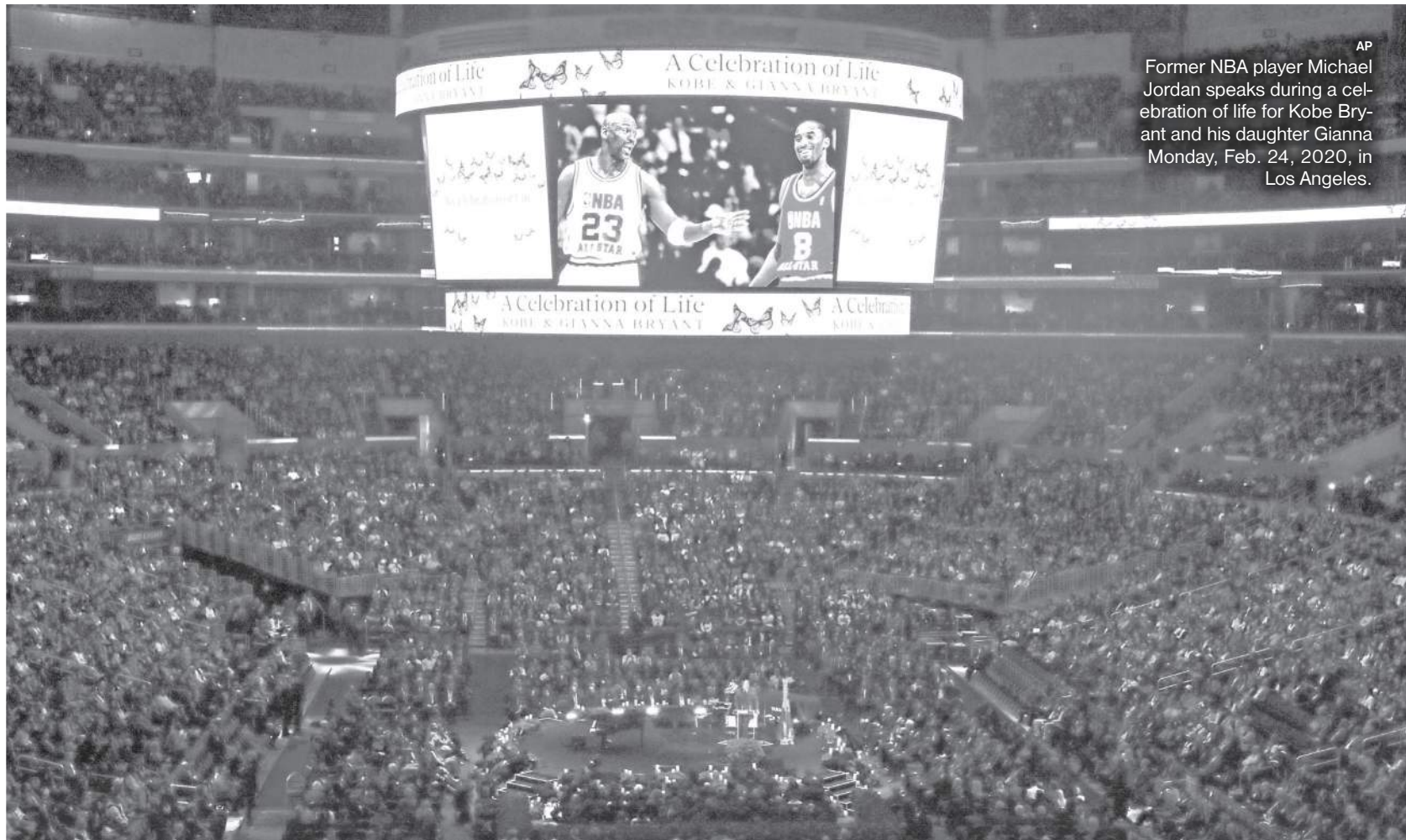
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jordan says he didn't see Kobe Bryant as his rival for the mythical honor of being recognized as the best basketball player ever.

Instead, he came to love Bryant as the little brother he never had, and as a student eager to learn from Jordan's experiences and skills.

"He wanted to be the best basketball player that he could be," Jordan said Monday at Bryant's public memorial service at Staples Center. "And as I got to know him, I wanted to be the best big brother that I could be."

Jordan broke into tears with those words during a moving speech about his largely unpublicized friendship with Bryant, who died along with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others in a helicopter crash Jan. 26.

"When Kobe Bryant died, a piece of me died," Jordan said. "And as I look (around) this arena and across the globe, a piece of you died, or else you wouldn't be here. Those are the memories that we have to live with and we learn from. I promise you from this day forward, I will live with the memories of knowing that little brother that I tried to help in



AP
Former NBA player Michael Jordan speaks during a celebration of life for Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Los Angeles.

every way I could. Please rest in peace, little brother."

The heartfelt comments from Jordan, the relatively media-shy billionaire owner of the Charlotte Hornets, were a poignant highlight of the

two-hour ceremony. Jordan also provided a memorable image from the event when he stepped up to help Vanessa Bryant off the stage after she delivered her eulogy of her husband and daughter.

Bryant's career with the Los Angeles Lakers took off in the late 1990s when Jordan was wrapping up his own stellar career with the Chicago Bulls. The two shooting guards with silky, aggressive offen-

sive games competed fiercely against each other, with Jordan initially unwilling to cede ground to Bryant as the next superstar at their position.

But once they became acquaintances, Bryant bombarded Jordan with late-night phone calls and questions about how to improve. When a retired Jordan traveled to Los Angeles to visit Phil Jackson, the former Bulls coach then in charge of the Lakers, Jordan was greeted by Bryant—who immediately asked him if he had brought his shoes so they could play.

"No matter where he saw me, he saw the challenge," Jordan said. "And I admired him because of his passion. You rarely see someone who's looking and trying to improve each and every day, not just in sports, but as a parent, as a husband. I am inspired by what he's done and what he's shared with Vanessa, and what he's shared with his kids."

Bryant kept up his questions even during their retirements. Just a couple of months ago, Bryant texted Jordan for insight on teaching moves to Gigi Bryant, who aspired to a basketball career.

Jordan is the fifth-leading scorer in NBA history with 32,292 points. Bryant -- who played 274 more games—passed him on the career scoring list during his penultimate season in December 2014.

Kobe's 33,643 points currently put him fourth on the chart, with only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone and LeBron James above them.

Jordan won six titles with the Bulls, while Bryant won five rings and reached seven

NBA Finals with the Lakers.

Fans have spent decades comparing Jordan to Bryant, and comparing both to James. Jordan isn't interested in that game.

"Kobe never left anything on the court, and I think that's what he would want for us to do," Jordan said. "No one knows how much time we have. That's why we must live in the moment. We must enjoy the moment. We must reach and see and spend as much time as we can with our families and friends and the people that we absolutely love."

Jordan teared up several times during his speech, which allowed him to bring a moment of levity to the somber proceedings.

He is well aware of the Crying Jordan meme in which an Associated Press photo of his tear-stained face from his 2009 Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony is superimposed on athletes and public figures at moments of loss or disappointment.

"Now he's got me. I'm going to have to look at another crying meme for the next ..." Jordan said while the arena dissolved into laughter.

"I told my wife I wasn't going to do this because I didn't want to see that for the next three or four years," Jordan added. "That is what Kobe Bryant does to me. I'm pretty sure Vanessa and his friends all can say the same thing. He knows how to get to you in a way that affects you personally. Even though if he's being a pain in the ass, you have a sense of love for him and the way that he can bring out the best in you, and he did that for me."

Middleton leads Bucks past pesky Wizards in OT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Khris Middleton scored Milwaukee's final nine points and the Bucks beat Bradley Beal and the Washington Wizards 137-134 in overtime on Monday night.

Middleton, who finished with 40 points, hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 30.2 seconds left to give the Bucks a 135-132 lead.

After Beal made two free throws, Middleton was fouled with 7.8 seconds left and made both attempts from the line to make it 137-134 and Troy Brown, Jr.'s 3-pointer rimmed out at the buzzer.

Beal, one night after scoring a then-career high 53 points in a loss at Chicago, topped it with a 55-point effort that included 22 points in the fourth quarter and seven more in overtime.

Shabazz Napier added a season-high 27 points for Washington.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 14 rebounds before fouling out with 1:33 remaining in regulation for Milwaukee.

The Wizards rallied from 17 points down to take a 123-121 lead on Beal's 3 with 1:01 remaining.

Eric Bledsoe's free throws tied it and after a miss by

Beal, Middleton missed as well. Felipe Lopez blocked Rui Hachimura's layup attempt with 1:0 second left and Milwaukee's alley-oop toss at the buzzer failed.

Rockets 123, Knicks 112

In Houston, For James Harden, it wasn't a choice.

He had to be at Kobe and Gianna Bryant's memorial service in Los Angeles on Monday even though his Houston Rockets had a game that night.

"It was everything just to pay my respects," Harden said. "To show my condolences to the family. Obviously it's a tough time for them, for the entire world, so it was a must that I be there and show my respects."

Harden, Russell Westbrook and P.J. Tucker arrived at the arena about 70 minutes before tip-off after attending the memorial service.

Harden scored 37 points, and the Rockets beat the New York Knicks 123-112 for their fourth straight victory.

"It's unbelievable what he can do tired or distracted and not in his routine but he just keeps plugging away," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "That's why we value him."

Mavericks 139, Timberwolves 123

In Dallas, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 23 points and Luka Doncic had 20 as the Mavericks beat the Timberwolves.

The Mavericks never trailed and were able to rest most of their starters in the fourth quarter after scoring 81 points before halftime, their biggest half of the season. Hardaway, Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis did not play in the final period.

The reeling Timberwolves, playing without star big man Karl-Anthony Towns, lost their fifth in a row and 18th in 19 games.

Dallas shot 56% in the first half and went 12 of 23 from 3-point range en route to an 81-65 halftime lead.

Magic 115, Nets 113

In New York, the Orlando Magic were way down and in danger of falling further behind in the race for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

They turned things around with their biggest comeback of the season and hope it shows they have plenty of fight left for the final stretch.

Aaron Gordon had 27 points, 10 rebounds and a big blocked shot in the final seconds, helping the Magic rally past the Brooklyn Nets.

Orlando charged back from a 19-point deficit to move within 1 1/2 games of the Nets for the seventh spot in the East.

"We're in the hunt, so this was a good win to get for us," Gordon said. "I feel like we've let go of a lot of games and now it's time to get a hold of them."

Terrence Ross added 21 points and eight rebounds, Evan Fournier scored 21 and Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and 10 boards for the Magic.

Cavaliers 125, Heat 119

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers turned what looked like another lopsided loss into a stunning win.

Rookie swingman Kevin Porter Jr. scored a season-high 30 points, including the go-ahead basket in overtime, and Cleveland rallied from a 22-point deficit for a 125-119 victory over the Miami Heat.

Porter was 9 of 18 from the field and hit four 3-pointers in his 41 minutes on the floor.

"You can play a perfect game, but if you don't close at the end it doesn't matter," he said. "We're extremely happy we could close it out."

Cleveland, which trailed 84-62 midway through the third quarter, handed the Heat their first loss in nine overtime games this season.

Altuve nicked by pitch, Astros stars booed vs Tigers



LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—Jose Altuve

insisted he tuned out the hecklers. He couldn't avoid a pitch that grazed him.

"He was hit in the foot. That ain't nothing, you know what I mean?" Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker said Monday after an 11-1 win over Detroit at half-empty Joker Marchant Stadium. "It wasn't intentional."

Altuve was loudly booed when he was introduced for his spring training debut, cheered when he struck out and called a cheater by several fans. Quite a difference from past years, when the diminutive All-Star second baseman was among the most popular players in the majors.

But that was before Altuve and his Houston teammates were implicated in the sign-stealing scandal that's rocked baseball.

"We just heard a lot of noise, and that's it," Altuve said.

Altuve and fellow starters Alex Bregman, Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel all played for the first time in the exhibition season. After Houston opened the Grapefruit League in the stadium it shares with the World Series champion Washington Nationals, this was the first time the Astros were away from their complex -- providing a taste of the reaction they might receive on the road this year.

"We were focused on playing baseball. We know that we need to go on the field and get ready and prepared for the coming season," Altuve said. "That's what we're thinking about right now."

Actually, the reception during the visit to Tigertown USA was fairly tame compared to what it figures to be during the regular season.

"What reaction?" Correa said.

Early arrivals in the announced crowd of 4,891 were discouraged by ushers from gathering near the Astros dugout unless they had box seats along the third base line.

Hecklers aired their voices after batting practice, booing during introduction of line-ups and each time Altuve, Bregman, Correa and Gurriel stepped up to the plate. Altuve got some cheers, too, when he was charged with an error for dropping a throw by Bregman from third base on a force play.

The quartet was treated to one more round of boos when they left the game and made the long walk up the first base line to the visiting clubhouse.

"There's frustration in the fan base and they have a right to voice their opinion. ... The Astros are going to have to



wear it for a while, and eventually it'll move on. But fans are going to voice their opinions and they have a right to," Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said. "Those guys understand it over there, and they're going about their business of getting ready for the season."

Altuve took a third called strike to a round of cheers in his first at-bat, then lined a crowd-quieting RBI double into the left-field corner his next time up.

Altuve showed no signs of being upset when he was grazed with a pitch by Tigers reliever Nick Ramirez after the batter before him, Myles Straw, homered in the fifth inning. The 2017 AL MVP was replaced by a pinch runner.

Baker planned to play Altuve, Bregman, Correa and Gurriel no more than five innings anyway in Houston's first true road exhibition since a Major League Baseball investigation found the Astros broke rules by illegally stealing signs during their championship season in 2017.

While most of the team made the three-hour trip from West Palm Beach by bus early Monday, Baker said the team's starting infield traveled the previous day and spent the night in Orlando. Established players rarely make such long road trips in

spring training camp.

"That made it easier for them to show up here, and it makes easier for me to say: 'Hey, man, do you want to come,'" Baker said before the game, adding he had not tried to prepare Altuve, Bregman,

Correa and Gurriel about what to expect Monday.

"No, I don't tell 'em anything. There might not be any noise," Baker said. "Everybody keeps anticipating noise, and there might not be noise. It's hard to warn somebody

that something's coming and it never comes because you'll be looking out for it instead of playing the game. If it comes, you deal with it. If not, you go ahead and live your life."

Two other Astros were hit by pitches in the late innings,

^{AP}
Houston Astros' Jose Altuve warms up before a spring training baseball game against the Detroit Tigers Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Lakeland, Fla.

though Gardenhire stressed it wasn't on purpose.

Yanks' Cole strikes out 2 in spring debut

Gerrit Cole got off to a fast start in his spring training debut for the New York Yankees, throwing a 97 mph heater on his first pitch and striking out two in a hitless inning against Pittsburgh.

"It went well," Cole said. "It was fun. Made some good pitches."

Leadoff man Adam Frazier popped out and Bryan Reynolds struck out before Cole Tucker drew a walk. Cole then fanned Josh Bell to finish up.

"I lost the one guy, 0-2, Tucker," Cole said. "A couple of quality fastballs at the top but one of those three has to be in the zone. So next outing will continue to fine tune some command, but also try to keep the execution in terms of how the stuff's coming out very high. I think there was only one or two really pretty poor pitches, so it was good work. Quality work."

Cole signed a \$324 million, nine-year contract as a free agent after going 20-5 with a 2.50 ERA and 326 strikeouts last season for the AL champion Houston Astros. He has an overall career record of 94-52.

The right-hander reached 98 mph during 20-pitch outing.

MLB tells court attempts at cheating are a part of sports

NEW YORK (AP)—Attempts at cheating are a part of sports, Major League Baseball said in urging a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit by fantasy contestants.

Five men sued MLB, MLB Advanced Media, the Houston Astros and the Boston Red Sox in federal court in Manhattan, claiming fraud, violation of consumer-protection laws, negligence, unjust enrichment and deceptive trade practices by teams that violated MLB's rules against the use of electronics to steal catchers' signs. The five said they participated in DraftKings fantasy baseball contests.

"Rules violations—large and small, intentional and unintentional, technical and game-changing—are a never-ending source of sports television, talk radio, web and elevator commentary by sports pundits and fans alike," MLB said Friday in papers submitted to U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff. "And fans' general

awareness of the potential for infractions is underscored in this case by the fact that clubs were publicly disciplined for electronic sign-stealing violations during the 2017 regular season."

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred ruled last month the Astros violated sign-stealing rules during home games en route to their World Series title in 2017 and again in 2018. He suspended manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season each, and both were fired by the team. Manfred fined the Astros \$5 million, the maximum under MLB rules and stripped the team of its next two first- and second-round draft picks.

He also is investigating allegations against the Red Sox.

In its papers, MLB cited a 2010 opinion by Judge Robert Cowen for a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel that upheld the dismissal of a suit by a New York Jets

season ticket-holder against the NFL, New England coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots over the Spygate scandal.

"It appears uncontested that players often commit intentional rule infractions in order to obtain an advantage over the course of the game," Cowen wrote.

MLB maintained "plaintiffs got exactly what they bargained for: contests determined by baseball players' actual performance on the field, whatever the contributing factors, predictable or unpredictable, may have been" and added "not one plaintiff claims to have lost any fantasy baseball contest as a result of sign-stealing or otherwise."

Houston submitted papers to dismiss, citing the Astros' better performance on the road in 2017: The Astros hit .279 at home with 395 runs and 115 homers at home vs road stats of .284, 501 runs

and 123 homers.

Jeter: Black eye to baseball

Derek Jeter wishes baseball could change the subject.

The Miami Marlins CEO, who masterfully steered clear of controversy throughout his Hall of Fame playing career, has watched with dismay each new headline in the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal.

"It's like a slow drip of responses coming out from everyone," Jeter said Monday at the Marlins' spring training camp. "You hope at some point people can just move on. But look, it's unfortunate. It's a black eye for the sport."

"When you talk about people trying to get an edge in baseball, I don't think that's anything new. People have been trying to do it for years," Jeter said. "But, obviously, people took it way too far. And there are penalties for it. They're paying the price."

Australia, NZ showcase 2023 World Cup bid



SYDNEY
(AP)—Back-

ers of a bid to bring the 2023 Women's World Cup to Australia and New Zealand are confident they've showcased the benefits of co-hosting the event across two confederations.

New Zealand Football and Football Federation Australia are proposing the first ever co-confederation World Cup, the first FIFA World Cup in the Pacific region and the first Women's World Cup in the Southern Hemisphere.

A FIFA inspection team has completed a six-day tour, reviewing plans for a tournament involving 13 stadiums and up to 100 practice venues across the two countries.

Football Federation Australia chairman Chris Nikou says it would be "a game-changer for the women's game throughout the Asia-Pacific region."

New Zealand Football president Johanna Wood said there was constructive dialogue between the FIFA team and local organizers.

"We believe that we have the right mix of innovation, vision and hosting experience to deliver a remarkable FIFA Women's World Cup and be a partner FIFA can trust every step of the way," Wood said in a statement released Tuesday. "We will place the interests of the greatest female footballers in the world at the center of everything we do and I believe that came across strongly during the inspection visit."

Australia and New Zealand were in the Oceania confederation until the Australians joined the Asian Football Confederation after qualifying for the 2006 World Cup.

The countries have successfully co-hosted the Rugby World Cup and the Cricket World Cup, and Australia has hosted the Olympics in 1956 and 2000, and the AFC's Asian Cup in 2015.

The bid plans to clustering four groups in each country during the group stage to minimize travel distances for teams and fans.

The U.S. women's team won the 2019 World Cup in France, beating Netherlands in the final to win the title for the fourth time.

The tournament will be expanded from 24 to 32 teams in 2023, and the host will be decided in June by the FIFA Council.

FIFA has also received bids from Brazil, Japan and Colombia.

AFC matches off limits to public due to COVID-19

Two AFC Champions League



AP
In this Sept. 16, 2017 file photo, Australia's Sam Kerr, left, fights for the ball against Brazil's Rafaelle Carvalho Souza during their friendly soccer match in Penrith, Australia. Australia and New Zealand confirmed a joint bid to host the Women's World Cup in 2023.

matches in South Korea next week will take place behind closed doors because of the deadly coronavirus outbreak, the clubs announced Tuesday.

No fans will be allowed when FC Seoul play Thai-

land's Chiangrai United next Tuesday or the following day as Ulsan face Australia's Perth Glory in Asia's Premier club competition, the clubs said in separate statements.

South Korea has reported

nearly 900 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infections, with nine deaths.

The two teams said the decision was made "at the request of the Korea Professional Football League" to curb the

spread of the infections.

Two other South Korean teams involved in the competition, Jeonbuk and Suwon Bluewings, do not have their next home games until April.

The announcements come

24 hours after South Korea's K-league postponed the start of the new football season following a spike in COVID-19 cases over the weekend.

"The K-league has decided to temporarily postpone the start of the 2020 K-league season until the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak eases," the football body said after an emergency board meeting.

Matches featuring Daegu FC, based in the city that is the epicenter of the South Korean outbreak, and nearby Pohang Steelers, had already been delayed.

Earlier on Tuesday table tennis's world team championships, due to take place next month in the southern city of Busan, were postponed.

The International Table Tennis Federation said the event, originally planned for March 22-29, had been provisionally rescheduled for June 21-28 following an emergency meeting with local organisers.

Volleyball, basketball and handball have taken similar measures.

The coronavirus has had a serious impact on sports events worldwide, with football matches in Italy, China and Japan postponed as well as the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix, the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and elite women's LPGA golf tournaments in Thailand, Singapore, and China.

In Japan, Japan's J-League postponed its cup competition on Tuesday over the deadly coronavirus.

The football league postponed seven cup games scheduled for Wednesday, and said it will discuss suspending all matches until March 15.

"J-League will provide its maximum cooperation for the prevention of the spread (of the virus) and anti-infection measures," a statement said.

Japan's health minister has already urged people to avoid crowds and unnecessary gatherings, and the government has called for businesses to encourage teleworking and off-peak commuting.

The latest decision was made as the clock ticks closer to the Tokyo Olympics, which start in five months' time on July 24.

Training for Olympic volunteers was suspended over the weekend, and the Tokyo marathon on March 1 has been closed to all but elite runners.

NFL's new combine drills may help scouts, attract more fans



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—National Invitation Camp president Jeff

Foster spent the past couple months debating how to improve the annual NFL scouting combine.

His team settled on adding more than a dozen new drills, intended to help coaches and scouts evaluate draft prospects in an ever evolving game, make things more competitive for players and more entertaining for fans.

Foster figures it's a win for everyone.

"First, we want to make sure the drills are reflective of today's game," he said Monday as players started arriving in Indianapolis for a week full of poking and prodding, testing, workouts and interviews. "We've been using the same drills for many, many years, which is great to use as comparative analysis. But we also wanted to make sure we were updating the drills to reflect how the game has changed. The second piece was to add some elements to it that would be more attractive to the players and the fans."

Quarterbacks will be throwing end zone fade routes to receivers and tight ends and all three player groups will participate in a "timed smoke drill," which examines how players adjust to pre-snap reads.

Running backs will now be tested on angle routes and drilled on using their eyes to navigate physical obstacles.

Defensive linemen will go through the run-and-club drill, using their hands and spin moves against five stand-up tackling bags -- one of the most popular position group drills in training camp.

In all, 16 new drills have been added, with a handful of old standbys eliminated.

And organizers hope it will have another impact by ending the trend of top prospects opting out of some or all drills in Indy in favor of working with college teammates in the familiar surroundings of their own schools.

"That's our hope," Foster said. "We think the workouts at night create a better experience for the players and one they're more familiar with because it's more like a typical game day. If you have a 4 o'clock workout, that's kind

of like a 4 o'clock kickoff. We think the combination will increase participation."

The combine has been held in Indianapolis every year since 1987 and it will be back again in 2021.

But other cities have been angling to attract the league's second-biggest offseason event, pointing to the success of the league moving the draft around the country.

Colts owner Jim Irsay isn't going to let it go without a fight, though.

"If you talk to team executives, coaches, team doctors, and they'll tell you nobody does it like we do it here. We want to keep that in place," Irsay told local reporters Sunday. "I think particularly medically, we're really able to get people MRIs or whatever they need, I think that's a strength, and the centralization of downtown is a strength. It's important to us, it's a big economic impact and we don't take that lightly, so we look forward to having it here for years to come."

The contract with Indy runs through 2025. But, Foster confirmed, the NFL can opt out of the deal any of the

final four years.

"Other owners would love to host this event," Foster said. "We've talked about it before, so we understand that interest is there. It's up to us to explain to leadership why we should have it in Indy."

Almost all of the roughly 300 players coming through town this week have something to prove. And some from smaller schools want to show they can excel on the big stage.

Some of the less familiar names this year include tight end Adam Trautman, who hopes to become the first Dayton player drafted since 1977, and tight end Charlie Taumoepeau, who could become the highest draft choice out of Portland State since the Denver Broncos took TE Julius Thomas in the fourth round of the 2011 draft.

Safety Kyle Dugger can become the first draft pick out of Lenoir-Rhyne, a Division II school in North Carolina, since 2000. And offensive lineman Ben Bartch is trying to be the first draft pick out of St. John's, a Division III school in Minnesota, since the Vikings took Kurt Wachtler in the 15th round in 1974.

Blue Eagle tops elims; semis cast complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Blue Eagle gained the top seed in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after wrapping up the elimination with an 87-59 rout of Atkins Kroll Toyota last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Preston Basa and Manolo Manalo teamed up in the lopsided win with the former firing a game-high 27 points and the latter adding 22. Douglas Schmidt also finished in twin digits with his 14 markers, helping the Blue Eagle round

up the regular season with an 8-1 record.

The Blue Eagle built a 24-8 lead after the first half behind the four triples of Basa and was never threatened to top the 10-team field. Basa made all his points from downtown.

The Blue Eagle will lead the semis cast, which also includes Islander, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and Eats Easy. There was a tie for the fourth and last semis ticket with RNV and the Hoopaholics matching Eats Easy's 5-4 record. The Hoopaholics won its final game of the season last Saturday, but missed the semis, as Eats Easy prevailed in the three-way standoff.

In the Masters Division, the Final Four roster has also been filled with Blue Haus, Old Iskool, JNS, and IT&E making the grade.

The semis games will be played this Saturday.

Blue Eagle 87—P. Basa 27, Manalo 22, De Guzman 14, Schmidt 14, Esmores 4, Sienna 4, Barbo 2.

AK Toyota 59—Lilles 16, Brennan 13, Camacho 8, Colden 8, Joyner 5, Seekol 4, Jones 2.

UFO FINAL STANDINGS					
Masters Division			Open Division		
TEAMS	W	L	TEAMS	W	L
Blue Haus	9	0	Blue Eagle	8	1
Old Iskool	7	2	Islander	7	2
JNS	7	2	Shirley's	6	3
IT&E	6	3	Eats Easy	5	4
Saimar Pilots	6	3	RNV	5	4
Islander	3	6	Hoopaholics	5	4
Gilas Batang	3	6	Lakay	3	6
PPG Paint	2	7	AK Toyota	2	7
Saipan Vegas	1	8	Saipan Vegas	2	7
Pacific Marine	1	8	Pacific Island Club	1	8

HOPWOOD

From Page 28

mel the commanding lead and still closed out for the team for a complete dominance in the semis game. Chavez had her first goal in the fifth minute and the last four in the 12th, 22nd, 29th, and 49th.

Hopwood also took a comfortable lead in the first half of its semis duel against SIS, 8-0, behind the four goals of Rizza Relucio, and remained relentless in the second half for the lopsided victory.

Relucio scored right in the opening minute of the game and recorded her three other goals in the 13th, 24th, and 27th. Tamia Hix also had a strong start after adding a hat trick in the first 35 minutes of play. Hix hit the board in the fifth, eighth, and 34th minute, while Hopwood's other goal in the first half was courtesy of Drylenn Joseph in the 17th.

In the second half, Mary Joy Aniana became the fourth Hopwood player to find the back of the net with her conversion in the 36th minute. The Hilitais kept going with Relu-

cio adding three more goals (45th, 46th, and 49th minute), Aniana also earning a hat trick with her shots in the 48th and 55th minute, and Julie Ann Capayas, Viance Mangulabnan, and Sophia Quintos chipping in one goal apiece late in the game.

SIS averted a shutout loss, thanks to Martha Culp's goal in the 65th minute.

Hopwood's win over the Geckos was its third in the season, as the Hilitais defeated Mt. Carmel, 5-3, and Chacha Oceanview, 11-2, in the elimination round in Group B. The Lady Knights also topped Chacha, 4-1, to take the second semis ticket in Group B.

In Group A, FMS and SIS had similar 1-1-0 win-draw-loss records to reach the

semifinals. The Napu Riders and Lady Geckos settled for a draw in their elimination round game, 1-1, and then both prevailed against Dandan Middle School (6-0 for FMS and 3-1 for SIS).

Meanwhile, the winner-take-all championship game between Hopwood and Mt. Carmel will take place on March 4 at 6pm.



Mt. Carmel School's Krissy Cepeda, left, and Kaithlyn Chavez, center, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Megan Elayda chase the ball during their semis game in the 2019-2020 Public School System /Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Interscholastic Soccer League yesterday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

KOBE

From Page 28

the Raptors, but him switching jersey numbers might've been the start of a more mature Kobe.

He became more of a leader, trusted his teammates more, and in fact appeared to be in better terms with them (but don't tell that to Smush Parker), and didn't dominate the ball as much.

A midseason trade that can only be described as the biggest heist in NBA history brought Pau Gasol to Los Angeles in lieu of Kwame Brown and with the big Spaniard in toe—along with the likes of Andrew Bynum, Derek Fisher, and Trevor Ariza—and then Metta World Peace—the Lakers would win titles in 2009 and 2010.

That showed that Kobe didn't just piggybacked on Shaq's greatness, he was also great in his own right. What's more, he now had five rings to O'Neal's four.

One last gasp with the most dysfunctional super team ever assembled (Kobe, Gasol, the player formerly known as Ron Artest, Steve Nash, and Dwight Howard), mercifully ended with an Achilles injury for Kobe and a first-round exit for the Lakers and with that Kobe's dream of catching Jordan's six NBA championships went poof.

I watched that game on TV and marveled how Kobe still managed to make both free throws, season-ending injury and all, to preserve the Lakers' win and secure the seventh seed against an old rival in the San Antonio Spurs.

It was an obvious jab on the Celtics' Paul Pierce. You might recall the Boston star feigned an injury for what turned out to be bathroom break during the 2008 NBA Finals.

Kobe would have his retirement tour in 2016. It was an uneventful year for the Lakers as there were no championship to pursue and even nary a whiff of the playoff. It was a season basically to honor their star of 20 years.

Lakers fans could've slept through the 2016 season and no one would blame them. Until April 27, 2017. That's when Kobe scored 60 points in his final NBA game, willing his ragtag team to a win after being 10 points down with three minutes and change left against the Utah Jazz.

In retirement, Kobe retreated to a more private life. It has

been well documented the past weeks since his passing how he was such an inspiration for the younger NBA players for his Mamba Mentality as they call it, but what I admired most about Kobe now was his dedication to his wife and daughters.

The genesis of Kobe using helicopters was actually in an effort to cut down on commute time between his home in Newport Beach and games and practices in Los Angeles, as he opted to spend his precious time with family than be stuck in traffic.

He also opened the Mamba Sports Academy so he could coach not only his daughter Gianna, but also other girls about the sport he loved. Kobe, Gianna, and nine others were actually flying to a game last Jan. 26, when their

Saipan Marathon early bird signup extended

Great news for those running late.

Saipan Marathon 2020, scheduled for March 14, is extending its early bird signup rates through the final registration deadline.

For international participants, registration is \$100 for the full marathon and \$70 for the half marathon/10K/5K. The last day to register for international participants is Feb. 27 at 5pm (ChST). For CNMI and USA students, the signup for full marathon is \$55, \$45 for half marathon/10K/5K, and \$30 for students with valid ID.

The last day to register for CNMI/USA registrants is March 6 at 5pm. After Feb. 27, CNMI/USA registrants must register in person at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose, Saipan.

Saipan Marathon is an annual signature event of the MVA aimed at drawing visitors and media attention to the destination. This year's race adds a 5K course to to

the event.

"We are pleased to extend early bird rates to both international and local participants joining the Saipan Marathon 2020, and we hope this will encourage more people to try it out and have some fun running and walking together," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

"We are all grateful that The Marianas is free to date from any suspected or confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, but given the impact of the virus on tourism and the local economy, we know it's the right decision to keep rates low this year for everyone. It's going to be a great race, and we warmly invite our friends near and far to join us."

For more information, visit The Marianas calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)

GAMES

From Page 28

and make plans on how to get volunteers that will help them facilitate the tournaments in the Mini Games next year.

Athletics, beach volleyball, baseball, golf, badminton, and triathlon are the sports that made the initial list of events in the downsized Mini Games, while tennis and weightlifting may be added depending on the consensus of the Pacific Games Association-member countries that will decide on the final lineup early next year.

Though the PGC did not give a timetable on appointing

competition managers, each federation were reminded that finding people to handle their respective tournaments should be among their priorities.

Meanwhile, Minogue said he and Lakhan will be back on Saipan in April to get updates on the 2021 Mini Games preparations.

"We should be back in April just after Easter as the Oceania National Olympic Committee General Assembly will be held in Guam from April 14 to 18," said Minogue, who before meeting with local federations attended the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Sports Banquet last week.

I also developed a keener interest in family activities after reading the other side of Mamba Mentality.

From cocky teen to four-time NBA champion. From a notorious ball hog to passing the ball to Artest/Peace for the winning 3-pointer in the waning seconds of Game 7 of the NBA Finals against the Celtics in 2010. From feuding to exchanging *mea culpas* with Shaq in 2018. From accused rapist to Father of the Year.

In a way Kobe's life was a story of redemption and in death he truly became a bigger inspiration to all of us.

Mamba out, but will definitely not be forgotten.

Horatio in Shakespeare's Hamlet summed it best when he uttered, "Goodnight, sweet prince/and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."



Jordan's poignant
Kobe tribute: 'A
piece of me died'

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Altuve nicked by
pitch, Astros stars
booed vs Tigers

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Hopwood vs Mt. Carmel in finale



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hopwood middle
School's Tamia Hix,
right, dribbles in front of
the defense of Saipan
International School's
Stephanie Kim during
the first half of their
semis game in the
2019-2020 Public
School System /Northern
Mariana Islands
Football Association
Interscholastic Soccer
League yesterday at the
NMI Soccer Training
Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School and Mt. Carmel School eased their way to the finals of the 2019-2020 Public School System /Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Interscholastic Soccer League.

The Hilitais and Lady Knights set up their title showdown in the middle school division after crushing their respective opponents in a pair of semis matches yesterday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Hopwood pounced on Saipan International School, 17-1, while Mt. Carmel hammered Francisco M. Sablan Middle



School, 5-0. Kaithlyn Chavez towed the Lady Knights to the shut-out win over FMS as the CNMI Girls U19 National Team member delivered all the goals in the one-sided match. She posted four of her goals in the first half to give Mt. Car-

**See HOPWOOD on
Page 27**

I never liked Kobe

MARKSMAN

By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com



Kobe took Eddie Jones' spot as the Lakers starting shooting guard, thus necessitating the former Temple star's trade to the Charlotte Hornets.

Jones was a two-time NBA all-star before being shipped to Charlotte and obviously was a favorite of mine for this two-way game—he can play defense and score with the best of them. Who could ever forget his free throw line dunk against Alton Lister!

And who did the Purple and Gold trade to obtain the rights for the Kobester? None other than your favorite Serbian, Vlade Divac.

OK, Vlade was no all-star, but he was a loveable goofball center that can dribble and pass like a guard and rebound and score points in the interior with aplomb. You can say, he's a poor man's Arvydas Sabonis.

There's seems to be a recurring theme here. Yes, guilty as charged. I admit I've been a Laker fan since the days of the Showtime Lakers. Despite his well-known aloofness, I adored Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and actually feel he's the Batman to Magic Johnson's Robin during the early years of LA's dynastic run in the '80s.

Worthy may not have deserved his inclusion in the Top 50 NBA players of all time, but he wasn't nicknamed Big Game James for nothing. Byron Scott was your prototypical two-guard, as he could shoot consistently from the outside, was a rugged defender, and was a guaranteed bucket on the fastbreak.

I also admit that in Kobe's feud with Shaq I sided with the Diesel. Shaq was larger than life, the life of the party, and destroyed everyone with his brute strength in-

side the court.

Kobe, in contrast, was more of a stern principal than frat boy, maniacal in his approach to the game, and used more finesse and his unworldly athleticism to make plays.

In his early years in the NBA, he also went out of his way to prove he's the next coming of Black Jesus Michael Jordan. That's why he shot those two air balls against the Nuggets in the playoffs in his rookie year and hence his self-anointed nickname the Black Mamba.

Shaq was traded to the Heat after Kobe intimated he'd be signing with the crosstown rivals Clippers if the big man stayed.

The Heat had an up-and-coming Dwyane Wade to pair with Shaq and the two would win the Larry O'Brien trophy two years later. Too bad Jones was shipped to Memphis by then.

Wade is another player I stacked higher in the totem pole than Kobe. He co-existed with Shaq and more importantly seemed a more affable person. More on Wade in another column.

Kobe also hit a rough patch stemming from rape allegations in Colorado in 2003. A neighbor of mine reminded me of that the day Kobe died, but my quick retort was No. 8 admitted to the "affair" and publicly apologized for it on TV beside his lovely wife Vanessa, who totted what seemed like a million-dollar "forgive me" ring on her finger.

For me, the Kobe reclamation project began in earnest when he switched from numero ocho to No. 24. He might've worn No. 8 when he scored 81 points against

See KOBE on Page 27

Competition managers needed for 2021 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Pacific Games Council met with local sports federations last Friday to discuss preparations for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

PGC president Vidya Lakhan and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue sat down with representatives of badminton, baseball, athletics, golf, triathlon, tennis, weightlifting, and a couple of Northern Marianas Sports Association officials, and made some recommendations that will push forward the hosts' preparations for the quadrennial competition.

"We met with the sports associations to ask them to appoint a competition manager who will be in charge of or-



Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan, sixth left, and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, eighth left, join officials from Northern Marianas Sports Association and local sports federations for a group photo after their meeting last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ganizing their sports at Games time. We will provide them with support from their respec-

tive international federations in the planning," Minogue said. The sports groups are also ad-

vised to start recruiting players
See GAMES on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO